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**THE OTTAWA JEWISH**

# Bulletin



NOVEMBER 9, 1998

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CHESHVAN 20, 5759

## Ner Tamid Festival of the Arts an exciting showcase of contemporary Jewish culture

By Estelle Melzer

The Soloway Jewish Community Centre will inaugurate an exciting new community-wide event on the weekend of November 21 and 22. The Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) Festival of the Arts will be a forum for presenting contemporary Jewish culture. The community is invited to come to the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building to enjoy an eclectic blend of entertainment, humor, art, books, and speakers exploring different ideas and issues.

One speaker sure to create fireworks is Howard Galganov, English rights activist and self-described "bad boy of the Montreal media," who will present the Hy Hochberg Memorial Lecture on Sunday morning at 10:15 am.

Galganov will talk about unity, English language rights, and what is happening to the Jewish community in Montreal.

His book, *Bastards*, is currently on the Montreal best-seller's list. The graffiti on the front cover of the book is not artwork. It's a reproduction of the hate messages he has received for championing English language rights in Quebec.

Galganov founded the Quebec Political Action Committee (QPAC) immediately following the Quebec referendum of October 1995, with the aim of confronting head-on the French only language laws of the province. QPAC organized demonstrations for English language rights - including a Parliament Hill demonstration which drew 15,000 people - and financed a Supreme Court challenge.

Galganov also uses his daily radio show in Montreal, *Galganov at High Noon*, (CIQC AM 600) to goad politicians, the media, and other "elitists." He calls them live on-air to confront them, whenever, in his view, they "misreport or don't report." He proudly proclaims, "I take no prisoners and ask

for no quarter." Be prepared for a lively exchange of views as Galganov takes his fiery brand of political activism to the Ner Tamid Festival.

Ner Tamid will open on Saturday night, November 21 at 8:00 pm with the unique humor of Rabbi Bob Alper, "the world's only practising clergyman doing stand-up comedy ... intentionally." The show is funny enough for teens, clean enough for their grandparents and a great evening's entertainment for the whole family. A reception with light refreshments will follow the show.

Robert Meeropol will present the Westin Hotel Lecture on Sunday afternoon at 1:15 pm. Meeropol is the son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, accused spies who were executed by the United States government in 1953, at the height of the McCarthy era. He will talk about his parents' case, the trauma of his childhood and his efforts to turn tragedy into something positive through the Rosenberg Fund for Children, which helps children of persecuted political activists. His story is both a riveting personal account of history and a testament to human decency.

Ner Tamid also offers a full lineup of activities for youth and children.

Teens are invited to a Coffee House on Saturday night at the Dancing Mermaid, featuring local Jewish bands.

Children's programs for all ages, scheduled to coincide with the adult program, will run throughout Sunday.

Preschoolers can enjoy morning and afternoon craft sessions and Kinder Care will be open for tots under the age of 3.

The original Mad Science from Montreal will present two workshops guaranteed to inform,

(Continued on page 14)



**"As the sun rose on Masada,  
 Isaac had just finished praying"**

These are the words by which 20-year-old Jen Arron described the subject of her photograph, the winning entry in the Israel Experience 50th Anniversary Photo Contest. (More on page 14)

## Morris and Lillian Kimmel head up final phase of Capital Campaign

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

Morris and Lillian Kimmel have their work cut out for them: the husband-and-wife team have committed themselves to raising the last \$1.5 million needed to complete the Community Capital Campaign.

Reaching that goal will allow Hillel Lodge to take its rightful place alongside the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building and Hillel Academy on the community's Broadview Campus.

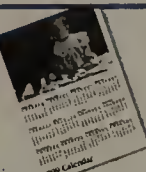
The Kimmels have targeted January 1 - March 30, 1999 to approach three select groups: those who, for various reasons, were never canvassed during the earlier stages of the Campaign; those who withheld their pledges, promising to come through when building a new Hillel Lodge was a certainty; and those who made only partial pledges, promising the remainder when the plans for Hillel Lodge were firm.

"These are the three categories of donors we're targeting," Morris says. "Obviously the people who were missed in the earlier canvasses will be hearing from us. And, certainly those who promised to make their pledges when concrete plans for the construction of Hillel Lodge were in place, are well aware that the time has come to honor their promises."

"Hillel Lodge is going to be a reality on our Broadview Campus," he says. "And those promises add up to

(Continued on page 9)

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## COMMENTARY

# Our community needs you - we need each other



## VAAD REPORT

BARBARA FARBER  
PRESIDENT, VAAD HA'IR

How does one successfully get a message out to the public? It is a question that professional marketers and advertisers have struggled with for years. Fortunes have been made by those who have managed to cleverly impart the importance of their ideas or product to others.

Hospital foundations, universities, libraries, galleries, all have searched for new and innovative ways to appeal to their constituents for increased monetary donations.

Past experience has shown that it is far easier to raise dollars for bricks and mortar. People enjoy seeing what their money can create. A prime example is the wonderful success that we have had with the Capital

Campaign. Campaign Chair Roger Greenberg and Associate Chair Stephen Victor and all the volunteers worked extremely hard to sell the dream but they had the advantage of being able to see that dream on paper. Concepts were made real and people were able to associate with the finished product. They could see where their dollars were going.

How do we sell the concept of UJA, a yearly ongoing campaign? How do we make you feel the need for increased giving?

We're not selling the idea of purchasing more high-tech pieces of medical equipment as do hospitals. In those cases, donors buy into the hopes that the equipment could save their lives or the lives of loved ones. We're not selling the concept of research dollars that may eradicate dreaded illnesses. What we are selling is an image, a dream of an even better community here in Ottawa and for Jews everywhere.

UJA dollars are used for the education of our children from nursery through the primary grades and on through to the first graduating class of Yitzhak Rabin High School. Our Planning and Priorities Committee, chaired by Josee Posen, is completing its paper on education within the community in relation to UJA funding

and how we might better serve the community. The paper will be published shortly. Sincere thanks go to Josee and our staff consultant, Rubin Friedman and to all who participated in the process. Because dollars are tight we must be able to spend them the best way possible.

By providing a large sum of money from UJA to the schools, we are reinforcing our strong community priority. A Jewish education is extremely important to the preservation and enhancement of our community.

Visualize what this community would look like if we weren't able to support agencies like Jewish Family Services, Tamir, Hillel Lodge, the Soloway JCC. Their very existence would be jeopardized. It would be a very dull and empty picture. And when new priorities come about and we are challenged to find the dollars to support new initiatives like the Tikvah Fund - we do it. Approximately 200 families are being helped each month through UJA's support of this new project.

I have written and spoken in the past about our family in the Former Soviet Union which needs our help. Outstanding programs exist through the Jewish Agency for Israel and others but as always participation for those who are in need is limited to the number of dollars available - our dollars.

I am not asking you for increased dollars for bricks and mortar. You came through in grand style to that request. I'm asking you for increased giving for something even more important to all of us.

We need your help in the sustenance, preservation and enhancement of your fellow Jews.

We are all one big family. Very few of us would ever hesitate to go beyond the norm to help a family member in need. Please remember we are all one.

We need you. We need each other. Please give generously when your canvasser calls upon you. The appropriate response is "Hineini" - I am here!

## Performing acts of kindness

At Simchat Torah, we completed the reading of the Torah and began the cycle of reading anew. At the end of the Torah we read about the Almighty burying Moses. On the Shabbat that followed, in Parshat Bereshith the beginning of the Torah, we read about Hashem's making clothing for the naked Adam and Eve.

These two book-end-like events are part of the basis of a major Jewish philosophical concept known in its Latin form as *Imitatio Dei* the Doctrine of imitation of G-d. Just a small sampling of this concept are the following: as G-d fed the hungry (giving manna in the desert) so are we commanded to feed the hungry; as He clothed the naked so are we commanded to clothe the naked; as He buried the dead so are we commanded to bury the dead, thus creating the Chevra Kadisha; and as G-d visited Abraham during his illness, we are commanded to visit the sick (*Bikur Cholim*).

Recently, my family experienced the hospitalization of two of its members; my daughter Elisheva was hospitalized for almost two weeks, and I spent Yom Kippur plus two days in the hospital, rather than at my pulpit at Beth Shalom.

As a CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) trained chaplain, with many years of experience at a number of hospitals in the US and Canada, these hospitalizations have given me new insights into the importance of the mitzvah of *Bikur Cholim*. One can deeply feel a sense of community caring and love through the acts of many individuals. Our family is very fortunate to have many friends who responded to us in many supportive ways during these trying weeks. Following are a few brief examples:

An entire family of our friends spent Friday evening with Elisheva in the hospital, making Kiddush and sharing a special Shabbat dinner sent by another family. Two of our children spent Shabbat in the Alta Vista neighborhood so they could be with their sister throughout the day. They had no trouble finding a place to stay since several families in the area offered their homes to us so we might be near our daughter. Some of these offers were taken up by a number of Elisheva's friends so they could visit her during Shabbat. I am told that over 20 teenagers showed up at various times throughout Shabbat, including those who walked from Craig Henry, the West End, and downtown, all in fulfilment of *Ahavat*



## FROM THE PULPIT

RABBI ELY M. BRAUN  
BETH SHALOM

*Chesed* (loving kindness).

In the days before and after Shabbat there were teenagers and adults dropping in at all hours of the day and night, creating an atmosphere of spiritual support. The phone calls to the hospital and to our home continued for a long time. Our tradition teaches us that a visit brings one sixtieth of the journey to healing (this is a geometric not an arithmetic formula, thus 60 people visiting, does not guarantee health).

I am deeply moved and spiritually touched by the support shown to our family during a stressful time. As I visit our local hospitals and nursing homes, I see that not everyone is as fortunate as we have been in terms of receiving an outpouring of support. There are many people who are lonely at the very time when spiritual support and human contact would be of great benefit. We have a great caring community, yet we also have many, many lonely people who cannot participate in the activities of our synagogues, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and the many great educational and social programs offered in the Jewish community.

We have a responsibility to one another. As the prophet Micah declared: "Man, you have been told what is good and what G-d requires of you; do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with G-d." (Micah 6:8)

The Chofetz Chaim, a great sage of the early part of this century explained Micah's use of the term "love kindness" rather than "do kindness" as an emphasis of the importance of doing acts of kindness. This emphasis can be seen in *Pirkei Avot* (The Ethics of Our Fathers 1:2), where we learn that "the world stands on three pillars, on Torah, Avodah (Divine Service) and Gemilut Chasadim (Acts of Loving Kindness)".

Please give of your time as a volunteer visitor to our community members who are home or hospital bound. Walk in G-d's ways and support the world by acts of loving kindness.

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**Bulletin**

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## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE



# Many People ... Many Roads ... One Heart

## Community Relations Committee advocates on our behalf

A rabbi arrives at his synagogue one morning and discovers swastikas spray-painted on the front door. Newspaper readers open their weekly newspaper to find a columnist has penned another Holocaust-denying rant. Local students are approached by a hate-group recruiter in a high school corridor. A prominent Jewish politician finds anonymous death threats in his home mailbox.

The scenarios are all unsettling – and unfortunately all too real in many Jewish communities across North America. They also demand a response from community representatives. Here in Ottawa, those representatives are organized as the Community Relations Committee of the Vaad Ha'Ir.

"Our committee advocates on behalf of the Ottawa Jewish community and provides advice to the broader community on a variety of matters," says Committee Chair Marion Mayman. "Our most important concern is human rights – anti-Semitism, racism, all forms of discrimination."

The committee is our community's eyes, ears, and often voice on matters related to all levels of government, law enforcement, politics and the media.

In addition to reacting and sensitizing the community to incidents of prejudice and discrimination, the committee promotes dialogue and ties with other ethnic, cultural and religious groups, advises school boards on issues such as Jewish holidays and anti-Semitic literature, acts as a community liaison to local politicians, and monitors local and national media that impact on Jewish life.

"The Jewish community has to be involved with the broader community, to find out what other groups are all about and to be connected with the political process," Mayman says. "It's all part of promoting better understanding and less hatred."

That's the reason why the Community Relations Committee is vital to our community. It's one of many important community activities that your UJA contribution helps support.

### CANADA AWAKE!

No.2



A pro-Nazi publication from the Ottawa chapter of the Aryan Resistance Movement in 1989.

From *Web of Hate* by Warren Kinsella

### Cabinet members ... dedicated volunteers

The backbone of the UJA Ottawa campaign is the tireless work of our dedicated volunteers. Here's why some of them are involved:

#### Sunny Tavel, chair Education & Mission Division

"Some people have lost sight of the wonderful things that UJA provides and where their money goes," says the veteran UJA volunteer who has prepared an information booklet and organized an inspiring leadership retreat. "It's a privilege to be able to work on anything that will benefit our community," says Sunny.



#### Morton Plect, chair Retail Retirees Division

After Morton retired, his son inspired him to continue volunteering. "We've got to keep Jewish organizations going," he says. "If I can't give more money, I can give my time. I'll do whatever I have to do."



### Grooming our future leadership

The key to the UJA campaign is a commitment to community. Two important agents fostering that commitment here in Ottawa are the local men's and women's leadership councils.

Jeannie Polisuk, the current chair of the Young Women's Leadership Council (YWLC), credits the organization with giving her a sense of belonging in her chosen community.

"Three years ago, I became a Jew by choice," she says. "Through YWLC, I had that wonderful sense of belonging to this community and of feeling Jewish."

Both the men's and women's groups meet regularly over the course of the year for educational programs, challenging speeches, and motivating group experiences which help groom participants for leadership and volunteer roles within the community.

The goals of the councils include deepening

participants' Jewish knowledge, identity and values; broadening their understanding of local, national and international Jewish organizations and of Israel; and providing them with the opportunity to participate in our community's many worthwhile activities.

"Many lasting friendships are forged," adds Polisuk. "We are all learning and growing together. We're very accepting of our diversity. There's a wonderful sense of belonging."

UJA helps support the leadership councils, but that support is a two-way street. Council members are asked to make a contribution to UJA that is meaningful to them, to participate in UJA events like Super Sunday and, adds Polisuk, "the natural transition is that a lot of our members move on to take roles in UJA women's cabinet and become board members in community agencies."

Talk about community spirit.

## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE



Your donation to the Ottawa Jewish Home of the Aged assists in providing high quality care for the Jewish elderly.

### In Honor of:

Leah and Ken Miller on the engagement of Mitchell to Lisa Dworkin by Shirley and Akiva Kriger.

Ben Feinstein on his 100th birthday by Martin and Thea Ginsburg.

Miriam Levitin by Martin and Thea Ginsburg. Noreen and Syd Bosloy on the engagement of their daughter Joanne by Lillian and Morris Kimmel.

Isadore and Lea Kalin on their 50th wedding anniversary by Sue and Sam Slack.

Bert and Sophie Koenig by Sue and Sam Slack.

Hy Hymes on his special birthday by Edye Cohen.

Rae Tessler on her 90th birthday by Sylvia and Amnon Pasher.

### R'fiah Sh'lemah to:

Howard Spungin by Lillian and Morris Kimmel.

Sam Slack by Debbie and Stephen Schneiderman.

Mr. Mendel by Ethyle Kapeller.

### In Memory of:

Ben Greenberg by Golda and Ned Steinman; and by the employees of Cameco Corp. (Fuel Services Division).

Mortimer English by Esther Binder; and by Betty and Sid Finkelman.

Dorothy Muriel Malanka by Al and Harold Cohen.

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### The CCRJ's new president, Nancy Bercovitch:

## Weaving Judaism into her life

By Kinneret Globerman

"Don't tell anybody you can do a job, or show anybody you can do a job," says Nancy Bercovitch with a twinkle in her eye. Otherwise, you might wind up, as she has, as the newly elected president of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ). This volunteer job, the culmination of many years spent giving back to the community, is probably Bercovitch's most challenging yet. For, as president, Bercovitch will be guiding the organization that oversees all 23 Reform temples in Canada, and a membership of 24,000.

Bercovitch is only the second woman ever to be elected president of the Canadian Council, although she likes to play down its significance. Normally, only presidents of congregations are eligible for membership on the CCRJ executive, but not in Bercovitch's case. "My husband was president [of Temple Israel]. I was a vice-president. I just got on because I work hard."

The CCRJ is considered one region of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Representatives from Reform temples in Canada meet at least once a year, under the aegis of the CCRJ, to discuss policy and decide direction. In between these meetings, the nitty-gritty work - such as developing programs in all aspects of Reform practice - is carried out by committee members and council officers. Most of the work is conducted by the president, vice-president and executive director who meet as regularly as bi-monthly. These higher-ranking CCRJ members also sit on the board of the UAHC.

The beginning of Bercovitch's journey began in 1967 when she, her scientist husband and their two children, moved to Ottawa from Deep River. They immediately joined Temple Israel because their 11-year-old son was nearing Bar Mitzvah age. Although Bercovitch's own background was Conservative, she and her husband felt that the Reform movement could offer them more as a family. "I wanted somewhere where I could be equal to what my husband was doing," she



Nancy Bercovitch

says. "That was important to me."

Once at Temple Israel, it didn't take long for her to become involved. "I've probably been on most committees," she muses. "I was on the ritual committee for many years. I [even] taught in the early days." One of the synagogue's members early on, Arthur Benjamin who, coincidentally, is the outgoing president of the CCRJ, knew that Bercovitch had a degree in Early Childhood Education. He very much wanted to start a school at Temple and was looking for teachers. "So, he turned to me and said, 'Nancy, you're a kindergarten teacher,'" Bercovitch remembers. "And I said, 'Yes. But I'm sorry, I'm working five days a week.' So he said, 'OK; so you'll work six.'"

It was also around that time that Bercovitch decided to do something she'd been wanting to do for a very long time and that was fabric arts. She focussed on weaving, bought herself a loom, and has been weaving ever since, everything from material and curtains, to even tallisim.

"It all started with Rabbi [Don] Gerber," smiles Bercovitch. "I came to Temple [one day], and I said, 'I bought a loom.' He said, 'Good. Make me a Tallis.' So I made him a Tallis and he went to New York to visit another congregation and I got a call from the rabbi of this congregation in New York and he said,

'Make me a tallis'. And it started like that." Bercovitch continues to weave her love of Judaism into her art.

Bercovitch designed the Chupah at Temple Israel and along with another local artist, Sonia Taran-tour Pearl, collaborated on the design and production of the ark doors and curtains.

Weaving has been Bercovitch's way of relaxing in a life that has always been busy with work and volunteering. But it's been her work with the CCRJ that has kept her busiest yet. She started out as the local chair for the Council biennial in Ottawa in 1992. From that position, she was asked to be the Outreach Chair, which automatically gave her a seat on the Outreach Commission of the UAHC. Following that, she became the CCRJ's vice-president in 1996. And as its vice-president, she has been responsible for organizing the Council's upcoming biennial taking place in Toronto November 12 to 14.

The last two years have prepared Bercovitch in many ways for her new position as president. The workload has been heavy, and so has the travelling - she has visited the Toronto National Office every two weeks for the last two years. As the Council's president, her pace will only quicken for she intends to visit Reform congregations throughout Canada. "I want to further Reform Judaism in Canada if I can," she states. "I know that sounds grandiose." But she sees signs that the movement is growing and she wants to make sure the momentum doesn't peter out.

"I think we need to expand and solidify," she continues. "To make sure that the roots that we have set down, grow. [The way to do that is] only by education; by educating our children. That's why education is so important." She feels there are many affiliated and unaffiliated Reform members who could benefit from outreach activities.

Bercovitch is excited about the programs being developed for Reform youth. The youth groups are strong and active and participate in annual Hebrew immersion gather-

(Continued on page 27)

### Accounting-Bookkeeping Personal Tax Returns

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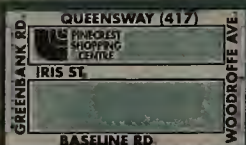
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#### Mazel Tov to:

**Benjamin Feinstein** on his 100th birthday by Freda and Maxwell Lobel.

**Rabbi Arnold and Chevy Fine** on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter by Paul, Sharon, Joshua, Jordan and Davina Finn.

**Claire and Robert Greenberg** on the birth of their daughter Melanie Bess by Shelley and Morris Schachnow.

**Doris Hoffman** on her birthday by Sandra, Eli and Aaron Hoffman.

**Yitzhak and Lea Kalin** on their 50th wedding anniversary by Rickie and Joe Loomer.

**Doris Hoffman** on her special birthday and best wishes to Doris and Joe Hoffman on their anniversary by Mary and Len Potechin; by Reva and Ernie Goldberg, Robin and Ryan; by Laurie and Steven Gordon and family; by Gail and Joel Sher and family; and by Max Steinberg.

**Laya Lefton** on her 70th birthday by Rickie and Joe Loomer.

**Jennie and Bill Smolkin** on their anniversary by Doris and Joe Hoffman.

**Dr. Robert and Roz Smolkin** on Heather's engagement to Bruce by Zelda and Stephen Shore and family.

**Dr. and Mrs. Robert Smolkin** on the marriage of Mark and Tina by Zelda and Stephen Shore and family.

**Lana and Steven Tanner** on Adam's engagement to Marnie Stein by Doris and Joe Hoffman; and by Gloria and Arni Faintuck.

**Max Steinberg** on his birthday by Doris and Joe Hoffman.

**Mrs. B Wasserman** on her special birthday by Bert Palmer.

#### Refuah Sh'lemah to:

**Ruth Aaron** by Freda and Maxwell Lobel.

**Matilda Feuerstein** by Freddie and Esther Ballon.

**Evelyn Potechin** by Freda and Maxwell Lobel.

**Lil Slonim** by Gloria and Arni Faintuck.

**Jack Smith** by Sharon, Paul, Joshua, Jordan and Davina Finn; and by Morton, Sheila, Stephanie and Harland Tanner.

#### In Memory of:

**Goldie Faintuck** by Gloria and Arni Faintuck.

**Berchik Greenberg** by Ira and Joanna Abrams; by Anne and Irving Atkins; by Sandy, Gerry, Chad and

Rian Bayne; by Goldie and Morris Cantor; by Joyce Cigelnik and family; by Lesley and Jack Cramer; by Carol and Evan Diamond; by Bluma and Bill Dicks; by Betty and Jay Dover; by Mrs. F. Dym; by Gloria and Arni Faintuck; by Betty and Sid Finkelman; by Susan and John Fisher and family; by Sharon, Paul, Joshua, Jordan and Davina Finn; by Marilyn and Ronald Goldberg and family; by Marjorie, Lou, and Howard Goldmaker, David, Glenda and Jordana; by John and Gladys Greenberg and Sonia Viner; by Fran Greenblatt; by Sharon Harris; by Sheila and Larry Hartman and family; by Doris and Joe Hoffman; by Libby and Stan Katz; by Claire Kevanstein; by Bert and Abe Klugsberg; by Shirley and Akiva Kriger; by Norma and Phil Lazear; by Jack and Basia Lerman; by Beatrice and Moe Lesser; by Rickie and Joe Loomer; by Anne and Arni May; by Tammy, David, and Adam Melamed; by Flo and Joe Morgan; by Ethel and Abe Murray and family; by Bertha Palmer; by Bert Palmer; by Carol and Laurie Pascoe and family; by Evelyn and Norman Potechin; by Roslyn and Lee Raskin; by Staff of Rockland Textiles; by Cindy and Charles Schachnow; by Sonia and Sheldon Shaffer; by Helima Sheikh; by Thelma and David Smith; by Roslyn and Gerry Snyder; by Morton, Sheila, Stephanie and Harland Tanner; by Marion and Myer Vexler; by Irene and Lee Waxman; and by Ann and Sydney Zoltak.

**Johnnie Share** by Freddie and Esther Ballon.

**Brother of Miriam Szabadi** by Irene and Harry Schwartz.

#### General

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to **Dorothy and Maurie Karp** by Freddie and Esther Ballon and family.

In appreciation to family and friends for best wishes sent on **Joe Hoffman's** special birthday by Doris and Joe Hoffman.

Donation cards, minimum \$10.00, can be purchased by contacting Reba Deiner, 1705 Playfair Drive, Apt. 1111, Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 8P6 (733-5155) or Lily Penso (725-1846).

## MAILBAG

### Servicemen's 'Guardian Angel'

Dear Editor,

It was called 'Armistice Day' at first - then as the memories faded our wise men moved to the spirit of Remembrance - as we know it today.

This year's traditional Remembrance Day Shabbat was celebrated on November 7 at Agudath Israel Synagogue. Worshippers had the opportunity to see a bronze plaque in the lobby, displayed for what may be the first time in an appropriately Jewish environment. The Ottawa Post of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada arranged to display the plaque and relate its display to Remembrance Day.

About a year ago, on a visit to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 16, at 1800 Bank Street, I was pleasantly surprised to find at least a partial answer to a question I always asked myself when I saw the stained glass window in the Beth Shalom sanctuary, honoring Mrs. A.J. (Lillian) Freiman, O.B.E. I knew what "OBE" stood for, but why did she receive this highest imperial recognition?

The plaque, presented by the Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, made clear Lillian Freiman's role in the establishment of Poppy Day, but I wanted to uncover the "story behind the story".

Spurred on by my curiosity, I discovered in the January 2, 1934 edition of the Ottawa Citizen, the announcement of the investiture of Freiman as an Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire. The article went on to say that "in conferring the honor of civil office of the Order on her, His Majesty made a selection that will be hailed throughout the country with much joy especially by ex-servicemen who well know the time and effort Mrs. Freiman has given to their cause".

I hope this short note will stimulate interest in the retelling in greater detail of this woman's wonderful accomplishments as a 'guardian angel' of Canadian servicemen during and after the Second World War. I certainly intend to get involved in writing this truly remarkable and inspiring saga of Ottawa's 'Woman of the Century'.

Elliott Gluck

#### Letters welcome

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely and of interest to our readership. The OJB reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters. The Mailbag column will be published as space permits.

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## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

## Adath Shalom brings professional storytellers to Ottawa

By Ruth Kahane Goldberg

The teachings of a great 19th century Hasidic rebbe and rebbitzin will come to life in Ottawa when professional storytellers Justin Lewis and Jane Enkin lead a sShabbaton at Adath Shalom Congregation November 27-28 at the Jewish Community Campus, 881 Broadview Avenue.

The teachings of Reb Sholom and Rebbitzin Malca of Belz will be the topic of Friday and Saturday evening storytelling programs by the talented couple, as well as a Dvar Torah by Justin Lewis during Shabbat morning services. Chazanut for part of Friday evening services and singing at the Havdalah program will be led by Jane Enkin.

"The stories are entertaining, fun, fascinating and it is not a requirement to understand the deeper meaning," says Lewis. "But when we reflect on their teachings, we have a lot to learn from them."

The history and themes of Hasidic stories are an important wellspring to discover Jewish heritage and personal guidance, Lewis says. "We can learn from Reb Sholom and Rebbitzin Malca's deep, personal connection to G-d, their devotional way of prayer and the holiness of their daily living. He was known as a person who was able to successfully combine self-esteem with humility."

Lewis first learned about the rebbe and rebbitzin from Yitzhak Buxbaum, a well-known scholar in the field. The record of their lives is unique in Hasidic literature. In general, few stories of women have been written. Lewis has researched numerous accounts and found a particu-



Jane Enkin and Justin Lewis

larly rich source, Jiri Langer's "Nine Gates to the Hasidic Mysteries", by an assimilated Jew who travelled to Belz and was drawn to become a ba'al teshuvah. In the book, written at the turn of the century, he talks about Reb Sholom and Rebbitzin Malca.

Reb Sholom, called the last "real" rebbe according to Hasidic tradition, was known for his level of learning, humility, restraint, austere life and miracle work. Rebbitzin Malca was respected for her knowledge of Torah, as a teacher and a miracle worker. She taught that everything is filled with soul and people's activities can be a way of connecting with the holiness in the world.

"They were spiritual partners and co-leaders and they are a role model for us all of respect and cooperation. Spirituality was their main bond," says Lewis. "I think of them as a model in what my wife, Jane and I are doing."

Adath Shalom Congregation invites the entire community to attend the Shabbaton. For further information, contact Ellen Caplan (725-9079).

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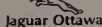
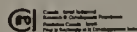
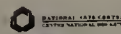
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## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

# UJA sponsors an evening with David Levine

UJA Ottawa brings our community together in many different ways. A special UJA-sponsored event on October 20 brought together medical and legal professionals for a rare audience with David Levine, the new president and CEO of the Ottawa Hospital.

It was a one-of-a-kind private gathering with Levine held at the home of Myrna and Dr. Norman Barwin, Medical Division co-chair. Participants went away with an appreciation of UJA's ability to provide a forum for issues of concern to community members and for the interaction with an important local news maker.

Levine spoke about his work overseeing the newly amalgamated hospital. "The merger is a real challenge," said the veteran hospital administrator. "I have never had more intense work".

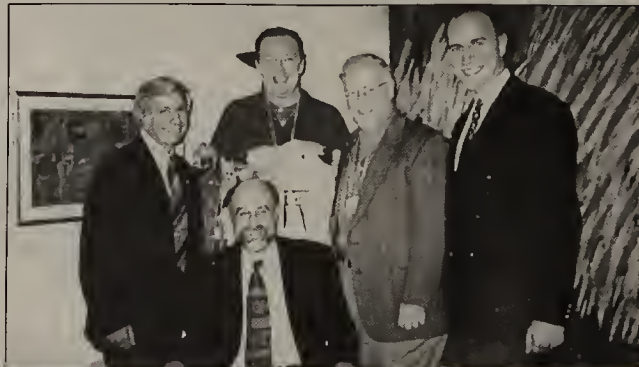
He also touched on the hoopla that greeted his arrival in Ottawa, stressing that his political career is two decades behind him. He said that a book about the controversy is about to be released and may or may not answer all the

questions.

The participants were then given the opportunity to ask questions of Levine. Many of them expressed concerns about the hospital restructuring process and its effects on everything from emergency-room procedures to cancer treatment. Levine answered all the questions eloquently and demonstrated a tremendous knowledge about hospital issues. "He had all the statistics at his fingertips" said one impressed participant.

When asked how he feels he's been received by medical professionals who are concerned that the restructuring may affect their livelihood, Levine replied, "I haven't been thrown out by anyone yet."

The session ended with a strong plea from UJA Vice-Chair Stan Katz. He pointed out that only 400 families in Ottawa give more than \$1,000 to UJA. He sent a frank message to doctors and lawyers that they have a responsibility to ensure that we have a strong and vibrant Jewish community.



David Levine was the guest speaker at a UJA event co-sponsored by Janssen-Ortho Inc. for medical and legal professionals: (seated) David Levine; (standing from left to right) Medical Division Co-Chair Dr. Norman Barwin, UJA Deputy Chair Ron Cherney, Medical Division Co-Chair Dr. Bill James and Vaad Executive Director Mitchell Bellman.



Students from Yitzhak Rabin High School were treated to a special UJA-sponsored visit by Brigadier General Yehoshua "Shuki" Schichrur of the Israeli Defense Forces' (JDF) Northern Command. He briefed the students on the situation in Northern Israel and gave a brief description of his job.

The students were well prepared and the general was impressed with their level of questions. Noah Caplan, dressed in IDF gear, gave his opinion on the situation in Israel. Ronit Braun asked, "Why don't women go into combat?" Shuki explained it's an international agreement that women don't fight.

The students benefitted from this encounter, particularly Leor Grebler and Moshe Minywab who will be graduating this year and are intending to make aliyah next September.



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## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE



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## Moshe Feig is honored at JNF Negev Dinner

Glowing tributes were paid to former Haganah fighter Moshe Feig at the JNF dinner held in his honor on Thursday, October 29 at Agudath Israel Synagogue.

The warmth felt for the honoree was evident in the faces of the more than 200 admirers, family, friends and JNF supporters who gathered at the 1998 Negev Dinner to pay well-deserved homage to the man who played a major role in defending the State of Israel in its earliest days.

Under the auspices of JNF, Moshe has arranged that the proceeds from the evening be directed towards the establishment of a rest area in the Shachariya Forest, site of many battles fought by the Haganah's Alexandroni Brigade in which he served.

In delivering the family's tribute to the honoree, daughter, Golda Feig Steinman, spoke eloquently of her father and acknowledged the excellent Jewish upbringing she and her brother, Chaim, received during their formative years in their parents' home. "As Jews, we always knew who we were," Golda said.

Other members of the family played a role in honoring Moshe Feig. Grandchildren Noam and Adina Steinman led the singing of O Canada and Hatikvah; son Chaim led the Birkat Hamazon, and Moshe's brother, Shmuel Feig, delivered the Hamotzi and blessing over the wine.

The formal presentation to Feig was made by Ottawa JNF President Dr. Norman Barwin. Speakers during the evening included JNF National President Naomi Frankenburg; Vaad President Barbara Farber; His Excellency David Sultan, ambassador of Israel to Canada; and Campaign Co-Chair Marion Mayman. The dinner was co-chaired by Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka and Rabbi Arnold Fine.

A highlight of the evening was the performance by renowned Cantor Yaakov Motzen of songs composed and sung during the '48 War of Independence. Motzen was accompanied on the piano by Stephen Glass.

A timely message, "We are the desert, You are the water" communicated the meaning behind the attractive centrepieces fashioned from a magnificent gerbera accompanied by small, round glass vases floating on blue-tinted water, and two blue boxes.

## Tu B'Shevat in the planning

It's ready, set, go for Ottawa JNF's Tu B'Shevat Telethon scheduled for January 31, 1999. Co-Chairs Mark Klyman, Michael Silverman and Israel Gencher are busily working on getting the fine points of the annual community-wide event in place. You can bet on it - your phone will be ringing on January 31!

## B'nai Mitzvah threesome

Mazal Tov and Yasher Koach to Mitchell Schwartz, Leah Schwartz, and Benjamin Resnick, a trio of young Ottawans who became B'nai Mitzvah recently. The parents of each of the celebrants chose to add a meaningful dimension to the occasion by inscribing their child's name in the JNF Sefer Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The Sefer Bar/Bat Mitzvah, which is prominently displayed in the foyer of Keren Kayemeth l'Israel in Jerusalem, contains the names of B'nai Mitzvah from the four corners of the Diaspora.

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# Morris and Lillian Kimmel head up final phase of Capital Campaign

(Continued from page 1)

between \$1.5 and \$2 million for the Community Capital Campaign, the amount needed to guarantee the groundbreaking for the new facility this spring and ensure that we enjoy our new Campus debt-free."

In announcing the couple as co-chairs of the Final Phase, Capital Campaign Chair Roger Greenberg said, "The Kimmels have a long history of commitment to the Ottawa Jewish community. I know they will get the job done and done well."

Although this final stage of the Capital Campaign officially launches on January 1, the Kimmels happily report that a number of people have already sought out the co-chairs to pledge their gifts.

"The momentum is starting," says Morris. "Some people have come forward to give and others have come forward to volunteer to help with the canvass."

The Kimmels have a vested interest in Hillel Lodge. A past president of the Board, Lillian remains active and concerned. Morris became involved with the board 10 years ago when he was asked by Young Israel to serve as its representative. He has

been on the board ever since. Until she passed away in 1982, Morris's widowed mother lived at the Lodge.

"When I saw what the staff did for my mother, when I saw the care and caring she received and how happy she was living there, I understood what a treasure this community has in Hillel Lodge," he says.

"Morris and Lillian are hands-on types of people. They give not only their financial support but also their time and expertise to the facility," says Hillel Lodge Executive Director Stephen Schneiderman.

"Because he chairs the Building Committee, Morris knows all too well the inadequacies of the present structure. His involvement with the Revenue Generation Committee gives him a greater appreciation of what it takes in terms of dollars to maintain Hillel Lodge."

"And, too," Schneiderman adds, "Morris chairs the Ritual Committee

which gives him an in-depth understanding of what it takes to make a Home for the Aged homeshe."

Five-year Hillel Lodge resident Ethyle Kapeller is looking forward to living in the new, state-of-the-art facility.

The home they are planning for the elderly is going to be wonderful for us seniors. I think the new Hillel Lodge will attract a lot of people who want to enjoy life in modern, kosher surroundings," she says.

Morris and Lillian plan to have the task completed by Pesach.

"We have every confidence that those who were missed in earlier canvasses will respond when they are contacted," Morris says. "As for those people who made promises based on a new Hillel Lodge, well, we're dealing with honorable people who keep their promises. I know they will honor their promise to the community."

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## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

# Responding to needs is way of life for Joyce Miller

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

Two years ago, Joyce Miller was named Cornwall's Citizen of the Year, a deserving accolade for a woman who makes responding to meeting needs a way of life.

She was accorded the singular honor for her untiring efforts on behalf of that city's Multiple Sclerosis Society and Heart and Stroke Foundation, her unbroken 35-year history of volunteering with the CNIB, her active participation with Meal-on-Wheels and the Women's Auxiliary of the Cornwall General Hospital, and her long involvement with the Rosenfield Chapter of Hadassah and Sisterhood of the Beth-El Congregation.

All this while bringing up four children.

"Joyce's contributions to both the general and Jewish communities have been tremendous," says her sister Lorna Rosenstein, former head of Lotus Canada.

"My sister is the quintessential giver," Rosenstein says. "The key to understanding Joyce is that when she sees a need she responds to the need and finds a way to meet it. She has brought honor to herself, her family and to the Jewish Community of Cornwall."

She has, indeed.

Joyce Rosenstein was just 20 years old in 1953 when she married 24-year-old Farrand Miller and left Montreal to live in his hometown of Cornwall, Ontario.

"I didn't experience culture shock when I came to Cornwall as a young bride," she laughs, "but my mother did."

Little wonder. Her parents, Ann and Louis Rosenstein, had raised their three daughters on Wilderton Avenue, in the heart of Montreal's Jewish district. Bagel shops and kosher butchers abounded. Synagogues were plentiful, and many of them were located within easy walking

distance of home. Jewish organizations beckoned to all ages and the public schools attended by the Rosenstein offspring had a preponderance of Jewish students.

By comparison Cornwall, population 46,000, left a lot to be desired. Situated an hour west of Montreal, Cornwall boasted 80 Jewish families in the 1950s, less than a previous record of 95 families, but appreciatively more than the 30 Jewish people who still call it home today.

"We're a small community, but we're a mighty community," Farrand Miller says. "Nathan Phillips, who became the mayor of Toronto, was born and raised in Cornwall. The first Jewish senator, Senator William S. Jacobs, came to nearby Lancaster from Europe and worshipped at our shul in Cornwall. And our own Aaron Horovitz, who emigrated from Romania, served as mayor of Cornwall for many years."

Cornwall's Jewish population still worships in the Beth-El Synagogue, a small, fully-outfitted, orthodox shul located at 321 Amelia Street. Built in 1929, it seats 90 men and 60 women. In his will late congregant, Archie Dover, provided for the construction of proper cheder facilities which were added to the synagogue building.

For many years the congregation was sufficiently large to support a full-time rabbi, who also taught Sunday school and after-school cheder classes. These days, with their numbers significantly dwindled and few, if any, school-age children in the Jewish community, congregants conduct their own services, importing a professional to lead the davening on the High Holy Days.

Keeping kosher in Cornwall was, and still is, a challenge.

"But not impossible," Joyce Miller says.

"When I first arrived here businesses used to close at noon on Wednesdays. Since most of Cornwall's Jewish population were in business, on Wednesday afternoons you could count on a convoy of cars heading eastward to Montreal to stock up in Montreal's kosher butcher shops.

"Some people preferred the meat from Toronto," she adds. "So, a couple of times a month you'd find them at the railway station picking up a big box of kosher meat packed in dry ice."

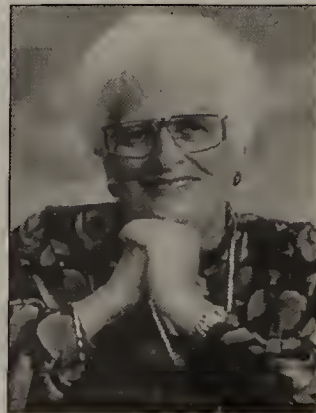
Cornwall's 1996 Citizen of the Year says the biggest shock she encountered occurred the day she attended her first Hadassah meeting with her mother-in-law.

"I went to the opening meeting of the Rosenfield Chapter of Hadassah to discover I was the only 20-year old mixing with a group of women in their late 50s." She laughs. "And when it came to the Jewish community, they were the only game in town."

But, she quickly discovered, they were a great game.

Despite the difference in their ages, the older women instantly welcomed the young newcomer into their midst and Joyce was soon in the thick of the Cornwall chapter's myriad activities.

Joyce Miller's warmth, charm and innate ability to adapt quickly made her a favorite member of the small community. In her never-ending quest to promote and sustain Yiddishkeit in that challenging



Joyce Miller

setting, she initiated contact with Jews in other small communities, and together they shared in holiday celebrations.

Although their four children are grown and Joyce and Farrand are grandparents several times over, to a large extent the couple have become the custodians of the Cornwall Jewish community.

Farrand, 69, a retired businessman, is kept busy acting as treasurer of the Jewish community, putting together minyans,

(Continued on page 15)

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### Upcoming Event

#### "Everything You Always Wanted To Know But Were Afraid To Ask"

It is important that children and teens with disabilities receive accurate information about sexuality. As parents, we often feel unsure about how to discuss it with them. "What do I tell them? How do I tell them? I don't want to tell them!" These are concerns shared by many parents. Join us for a discussion about what kids need to know and how to teach it, and a review of the resources available to support the process.

**Session Leader:** Susan Lindsay, MSW  
Department of Social Work  
Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre

**When:** Thursday, November 26, 1998, 7:30 pm

**Where:** Tamir Foundation Home  
840 Broadview Avenue, Ottawa

**For more information:** Debbie Ferkin 825-6560  
Mark Palmer 725-3519



## MANY PEOPLE MANY ROADS ONE HEART

### When you give to UJA, where will your money go?

#### *Ask Gennady Mishkis*

This is the story  
of one man whose life is  
off to a fresh start because of  
UJA Ottawa  
and Jewish Family Services.

None of us knows where life's journey will take us. So it was for Gennady Mishkis, a hard-working 30-year-old immigrant and husband from Moldova.

Although Gennady had his loving wife and his job as a personal trainer in Moldova, he was troubled by a rising level of prejudice and discrimination in the Former Soviet Union. He and his wife worried about their safety and about the future prospects for the family they hoped to start.

Three summers ago, Gennady and his wife came to the painful realization that they would not have a future in the country of their birth. They came to Ottawa as refugees.

Not surprisingly, the move was a difficult one. "We didn't have money or jobs. We didn't have many friends and didn't speak any English," Gennady recalls.

With the discovery of Jewish Family Services (JFS), a UJA Ottawa beneficiary agency, hope swept Gennady and his wife toward a new path. They received food and financial aid from the Tikvah Fund to help them get on their feet. They were also given guidance to help them on the journey through their new life here.

JFS helped Gennady find and pay for English lessons (it's now hard to believe that he couldn't speak a word of English three years ago) and a Developing Education course. The couple gained new friends and community spirit through special activities, including a performance by a Russian theatre troupe.



Now, Gennady's life has come full-circle. He and his wife are landed immigrants and Gennady recently began his first job in Ottawa as a personal trainer in the Soloway JCC.

"Nobody should be shy about asking for help," Gennady says. "If they come to the Jewish Community of Ottawa, they'll get help from warm and caring people."

Like Gennady, many members of our community benefit from JFS and the Tikvah Fund which help immigrant and Ottawa-born individuals alike. Your UJA contribution works to build a stronger community.



## MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY



## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE



### Joint Torah Academy/ Machzikei Hadas event is huge success

The mood - buoyant, joyous, and excited. Music, yes. Food, yes. Dancing, non-stop for over two hours. Over 200 people crowded into the Machzikei Hadas Succah to celebrate Chag HaSuccot. Event organizer, Rabbi Mordechai Fried, principal of Torah Academy of Ottawa, along with his students, put together a thrilling evening of music and dance.

Torah Academy is a Jewish day school (Nursery to Grade 8). For more information about the school, call Rabbi Fried (274-0110).



Machon Sarah girls in front of their new school.

## Ottawa Jewish high schools on the move

Both the Ottawa Torah Institute (OTI), Yeshiva high school for boys, and Machon Sarah High School, for girls, have settled into their new locations.

The OTI is now housed in the Federal Government Study Centre on Heron Road. With 22 boys from Grade 9 to OAC level, the OTI has been educating its students for the past 18 years according to rigorous standards in both religious and secular subjects. The OTI was previously located in the Jewish Community Centre on Chapel Street.

Machon Sarah High School, now in its ninth year, has moved to a slightly more historic site from its former quarters on Broadview Avenue. The old Hillel Academy classrooms located in Agudath Israel Synagogue have been renovated and updated to accommodate 19 girls,

again studying religious and secular subjects from Grade 9 to OAC level.

Rabbi Eliezer Ben-Porat, principal of both

schools, and secular director Sheila Beatty welcome your enquiries. For information on both schools phone 260-0390.

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## Camp B'nai Brith Director's Report

Steve Forman, Director



It is my pleasure to be serving as Director of Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa for a fourth year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our campers and staff for making the summer of 1998 a spectacular and memorable camping experience.

The close bonds that were formed at camp truly made CBB 98 "ONE TEAM - ONE DREAM!"

With the memories of the past season still fresh in our minds we are already making plans for the summer of 1999.

I am very pleased to welcome back the following head staff members: Sherri Gennis, Jeff Kanter and Cathy Indig.

Sherri will once again be serving as Head Counsellor. Last year she developed a wonderful rapport with both campers and staff. She is looking forward to returning as Head Counsellor for the season of 99. Welcome back Sherri.

Jeff Kanter will once again be my Administrative Assistant and the Co-ordinator for the Creative Arts program. Jeff is a great asset, given his abilities and long association with CBB.

Cathy Indig will be back at CBB for her fourth summer. She was the Head of the Junior and A units during her first two years. Last year I hired her back as the Head of Camper Care because of her ability to relate to children. She did a superb job last summer and we are very happy to have her back at camp.

The hiring of staff has already begun. I would like to welcome back Shelly Amor as our Head of Arts and Crafts and Allison Reid as our new Head of Pool.

Camp B'nai Brith will participate in the Soloway JCC's Ner Tamid Festival on Sunday, November 22, 1998. We look forward to talking to all those who come out to this wonderful program.

Plans are already under way for the annual *Camp Reunion* which will take place at the Machzikei Hadas Synagogue on November 29, 1998. Remember to circle this date so you don't miss out on the fun.

Our Ottawa CBB Open House is being held at 881 Broadview Avenue (Hillel Academy) on Sunday, December 6, 1998 at 12:30 pm in the Chapel. There will be a video presentation as well as a slide show. I will be there along with my head staff and members of the Camp Board of Directors to discuss plans for the summer of 1999. I look forward to seeing you there.

Our colourful camp brochures have already been mailed. If you have not yet received your copy, please call Morley Mason (head of registration and financial secretary) at 228-8495, or myself at 1-800-488-6431 and we will mail one out to you.

As a result of last summer's very successful camp season, we are expecting a full registration this summer. Remember that you will save money by sending in your deposit before December 31, 1998.

Finally, I want to wish all of our campers and staff a very healthy, happy and successful school year.

SEE YOU AT THE CAMP REUNION!

**OPEN  
HOUSE**

VIDEO

**CAMP  
B'NAI  
BRITH  
of OTTAWA**

**OPEN  
HOUSE**

SLIDE  
SHOW

DATE: Sunday, December 6, 1998  
TIME: 12:30 - 2:30 pm  
PLACE: 881 Broadview Avenue  
(Hillel Academy - in the chapel)

**COME TALK TO OUR CAMP DIRECTOR,  
STEVE FORMAN,  
AND HIS HEAD STAFF ABOUT THE  
EXCITING PLANS  
FOR THE 1999 CAMP SEASON!**

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OUR VERY SUCCESSFUL  
**2-WEEK STARTER CAMP PROGRAM**  
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**STEVE FORMAN, CAMP DIRECTOR**  
1-800-488-6431

For Registration:  
**MORLEY MASON**  
228-8495



## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

# One man sets out to repair our community's cemetery

By Alyce Baker

Cemeteries are intriguing places that evoke mixed emotions from people. There are those who are loathe to enter one for fear of dealing with the concept of death and mortality. There are many who seek solace in the peaceful silence of the majestic markers dotting the terrain. There are still others who direct themselves to loved ones now passed on, looking for answers, seeking guidance, asking forgiveness, lashing out in anger or exhibiting a range of other emotions.

For others, a cemetery is a historical chronicle, representing heritage, family and tradition. Many people identify a cemetery with the aged. If we and our loved ones are fortunate enough to be blessed with longevity then we may be spared these painful visits for many years.

But as the adage goes; the only two things in life that are inevitable are death and taxes. Somewhere along the line we must deal with the inevitable. Ottawans have jokingly referred to the phraseology of "ending up on Bank Street". It was a well understood meaning that implied a final resting place.

So it was that one day Norman Potechin found himself on such a visit. As he stood by the gravesite of his dearly loved and not long departed father, Isidore, he scanned the surrounding property and neighbouring grounds. What he saw shocked him.

The Ottawa Jewish Community Cemetery had deteriorated to such a degree that the fence was decaying, the building housing washrooms was in total disrepair, with windows and doors rotting. Roads leading in to the property were dug up and barely negotiable, and some footstones were even hanging precariously on angles, victim to the shifting earth.

"Pop," said Norman, "You're lying in a slum!"

And so Norman Potechin vowed to clean up the property. He gathered together several of his family members, telling them of the intolerable situation. Together they devised a solution. With extensive background in property management, Potechin had many resources to draw on. A longstanding relationship with Bassi Construction, led Norman to call in the father and son team of Mario and John.

After several trips out to Bank Street a deficiency list was drawn up and it was determined that the work required was extensive and costly.

But much to Norman's surprise the Bassi family had an additional piece of information to share.

"The Jewish community has been very good to us and supported us over the



Newly refurbished building houses washrooms, office and lounge.



Decaying fence surrounding property.

years. In return we'd like to be good to them to show our appreciation," said Mario Bassi.

Bassi Construction offered to donate their services in renovating part of the cemetery. This offer so touched Potechin, that it spurred him to further action. Drawing on his contacts within the community, he moved quickly to have as many of the materials donated as possible.

First came the building's exterior doors donated by Ambico Limited, and then the windows from Marlboro Window and Door Manufacturer. After that, came the plumbing supplies from Best-Mar Plumbing and heating Supplies Inc., the flooring from Westboro Flooring and the paint from European Glass and Paint Co. Ltd.

Bassi Construction, besides providing



One of the seven roads in disrepair leading into the grounds.

(Continued on page 16)

## Jewish cemetery at Bank Street founded in 1893

The Jewish cemetery (Bank Street site), fronting on the Metcalfe highway, in Gloucester Township, was founded on May 18, 1893 when Abraham Sugarman, John Dover, Abraham Spector and Benjamin Silver acted as trustees for Congregation Adath Jeshurun for the purpose of establishing a burial ground. The land was purchased from James Spratt for a sum of \$100.00.

The grounds were enlarged in 1907 under the guidance of Abraham Kert, an Ottawa merchant, acting in trust for the Hebrew United Brethren of Ottawa (Agudath Achim).

By 1942 these two congregations were joined by B'nai Jacob and Machzikei Hadas in expanding the cemetery grounds.

Agudath Achim on Rideau Street and Adath Jeshurun on King Edward Avenue amalgamated in 1954 to form the present Beth Shalom Congregation.

In 1969 the small James Street synagogue decided to close and also joined Beth Shalom. By virtue of these amalgamations, the cemetery lands of all these congregations became the property of Beth Shalom.

Machzikei Hadas always had its own section and presently holds about 25% of the Bank Street cemetery. Agudath Israel which incorporated around 1940, acquired a small strip and holds about 15% of the total land. Beth Shalom holds the rest, approximately 60% of the total.

Long ago, the leaders of the Jewish community decided to leave the ownership of cemetery lands to the synagogues, and it has remained that way.

Although the synagogues run their cemetery sections under the auspices of the Jewish Community Council/ Vaad Ha'Ir, they are, for all intents and purposes, administered and funded by the indi-

vidual synagogues.

Responsibility for the allotment and sale of plots rests with each congregation. Maintenance, capital expenditures and supervision are undertaken jointly by the Cemetery Committee. The current chair is Mayer Alvo.

The Bank Street cemetery occupies about 14 acres of land and is about 65% occupied. The major portion of remaining plots are owned by Congregation Beth Shalom.

By the early 1970s the need for a new cemetery arose with the congregations of Young Israel and Temple Israel having no sections of their own. Agudath Israel had only a few plots remaining on the Bank Street site.

The New Jewish Community Cemetery of Ottawa Inc. was established in 1976 in Osgoode Township. (Information courtesy Ottawa Jewish Archives)

# Did you know . . .

♥ Two children from single parent homes  
will enter Grade 1 at Talmud Torah Afternoon  
School on full scholarship paid for  
through UJA dollars.





## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

# Ner Tamid Festival an exciting showcase

(Continued from page 1)

enthrall and entertain, a morning program for ages 6 to 8, and an afternoon workshop for ages 8 to 12. Children not in the workshops can attend a sport program in the morning or choose between sports and crafts in the afternoon.

At 2:00 pm kids of all ages can enjoy a spectacular Mad Science Show and at 3:00 pm they can thrill to the magic of the Purple Dragon Puppet Theatre.

All Sunday activities are included in the Kids' Passport fee of \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members.

The Ner Tamid Festival will also feature a huge Jewish Book Fair, a Craft Fair and a Judaica Computer Fair, open from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, on Sunday.

There is no admission fee to the Book Fair. Ticket prices for the featured speakers are: The Rabbi Bob Alper Comedy Show and Reception - \$18M/\$23NM; The Hy Hochberg Memorial Lecture with Howard Galganov - \$10M/\$13 NM; the Westin Hotel Lecture with Robert Meeropol, \$10M/\$13 NM.

Tickets may be purchased through the Soloway JCC office, 1780 Kerr Avenue or by telephone (798-9818, ext. 300).



Howard Galganov's book *Bastards* is currently on the Montreal best-seller's list.

## Experience of a lifetime

This past summer, Jen Arron enjoyed her first trip to Israel on a tour arranged through the Canada Israel Experience Centre.

"It was the best experience of my life!" she said. Jen's photo entry won her a free round-trip El Al airline ticket to Israel. The contest was sponsored by UIA Federations Canada, the Canada Israel Experience Centre and El Al.

The daughter of Daphne and Stanley Arron, Jen is currently studying towards a Photographic Arts degree at Ryerson University in Toronto.

Front page photo first appeared in Canadian Jewish News.



Jen Arron

## Canadian Associates of BGU to hold inaugural meeting

By Geri Migicovsky

The inaugural meeting of the Ottawa Chapter, Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev will take place on Thursday, November 19, at 7:30 pm at the home of Dr. Norman and Myrna Barwin.

President Natalie Stern has announced that the meeting will be held in support of the Center for Women's Health Studies

and Promotion at the university. Guest speaker Dr. Julie Cwikel of the School of Social Work, Faculty of Behavioral Sciences at BGU will speak of the work being done at the centre. It is here that areas of needed research are identified.

All members of BGU and prospective members are invited to attend. To RSVP call Freda Paltiel (234-9167) or Geri Migicovsky (729-0333).

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# CHAI LIGHTS



of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre

The Centre of Your Life

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 1998

KISLEV 5759

## "Good Sports" turn out for charity at first Annual Community Sports Dinner

The Soloway Jewish Community Centre is pleased to cosponsor the First Annual Community Sports Dinner, in conjunction with the Snowsuit Fund. Co-chairs for the evening are Lawrence Greenspon and David Smith.

The event will take place at the Ottawa Athletic Club, on Tuesday, November 24, starting at 6:00 p.m. A Kosher buffet dinner will be served.

An opportunity to have fun while doing good, the Sports Dinner includes an exciting lineup of attractions and personalities.

The MC for the evening will be

former national basketball coach Jack Donahue.

Keynote speaker will be Ron McLean of *Hockey Night in Canada*. Laughs will be provided by Mike Macdonald, one of Canada's funniest and most successful stand-up comedians. His topic — sports humour, of course. Well known athletes, including members of the Ottawa Senators, Ottawa 67's, former Roughriders and Canadian Olympians will attend the dinner and meet and mingle with the guests.

The evening will also include a Silent Auction and a Live Auction.

Tickets are \$100 a person inclusive of taxes. Reserved tables of 10 plus an athlete are available at \$1000 a table. These tables can also be reserved to include a VIP reception for \$1250 a table. The VIP package includes a light reception and an opportunity to socialize with the athletes prior to the dinner.

All proceeds from the evening will go to the Snowsuit Fund and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the Soloway JCC. You can purchase your tickets in person or call the JCC at 798-9819, ext. 300.

## 300 attend multi-cultural tribute to artist Jankel Adler

It was an evening graced with the spirit of multi-cultural goodwill. The first gala event at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre was a tribute to Jewish-Polish-German artist Jankel Adler, cosponsored by the Embassies of Israel, Germany and Poland.

An overflow crowd of more than 300 filled the Soloway JCC auditorium to listen to two internationally respected experts on Jankel Adler discuss his life and art.

Janina Ladnowska, Senior Curator of the Department of Modern Painting and Sculpture of the Museum Sztuki in Lodz, Poland, and Professor Dr. Ulrich Krempel, Director of the Sprengel Museum of Hanover, Germany, had flown to Ottawa specifically to attend this event.

Their presentations were illustrated by slides of Adler's unique work, imbued with a vibrant Jewish motif. There was a tone of sadness to their tribute, however. Many of the slides were in black and white — blurred reproductions of old photographs. The original paintings have been lost forever, destroyed by the Nazis as "decadent Jewish art."

Both speakers referred to Adler's unique ability to fuse three cultures in his art — Jewish, Polish and German — and through this process discover "the universal bonds which unite us."

The huge crowd which this event attracted — a mixture of the Jewish, German and Polish communities of



Event organizer Anna Clarke (left) celebrates the life of Jankel Adler with Dr. Ulrich Krempel and Janina Ladnowska.

Ottawa — was an eloquent tribute to Adler's ability to "unite us all."

Representing their embassies were: His Excellency, Dr. Bogdan Grzelonski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland; Rudiger Lemp, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; and Sam Amit, Counselor of the Embassy of Israel.

The Soloway JCC's first gala evening was "a wonderful testament to the spirit of international goodwill in our nation's capital," said JCC President Jeff Gould. "We hope, that, in the future, our Centre will have the honour of hosting other international events such as this."

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**Sunday:**  
**8:00 am - 8:00 pm**

## ChaiLighting

### GELECHTER UN GESANG:

#### A Celebration of Yiddish

The love of Yiddish was celebrated at a warm and entertaining program at the Soloway JCC on Sunday, October 25. Gelechter un Gesang #2 (Laughter and Singing) lived up to its title.

There was lots of laughter and lots of singing throughout the afternoon.

The program opened with a selection of songs by the Yiddish Chorale Ensemble, directed by Victor Steinberg. Singing in four-part harmony, this thirteen-member chorale group gave a very polished performance of beautiful Yiddish songs.

Fuzzy Teitelbaum acted as MC and also presented a lively reading of Yiddish stories.

Then members of the Soloway JCC's Yiddish Hour group came on stage to perform Yiddish Improv — creating conversation and jokes around situations such as meeting in a doctor's waiting room or haggling over the will of a deceased relative.

The highlight of the program was Shirley Steinberg's Yiddish parody of *My Fair Lady*, entitled *Shprintze Freidl, Mein Shayna Meidl*. In this version, the Fair Lady resists the attempts of her Yiddish Henry Higgins to change her Galician accent to a more "refined" Litvack accent and happily retires to a life of selling knishes from her pushcart.

The program ended with a lively sing-along of old Yiddish theatre songs, led by Shirley Steinberg to the accompaniment of Aharon Zohar on the accordion.

Gelechter un Gesang, conceived and organized by Shirley Steinberg, was the second in a series of programs bringing Yiddish-lovers together. A third program will take place this spring.

"Our first Gelechter un Gesang took place last June," Steinberg explained. "The main part of the program was something I believe had never been tried before in Ottawa — Yiddish Improv. It was very informal and spontaneous and all of our participants were 'amateurs'. I really didn't know how they would do or how the audience would respond to them."

The audience loved the program. They howled at the colourful Yiddishisms, enjoying the intonations and body language even when they didn't completely understand all the words — and there were demands for more.

Gelechter and Gesang flowed naturally out of the Soloway JCC program, The Yiddish Hour. This informal conversational Yiddish group often uses improv to get the talk going. Participants were having so much fun, they thought others might also enjoy the unique flavour of Yiddish.

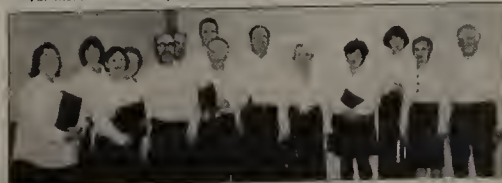
The Yiddish Hour takes place on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am at the Soloway JCC.

Both beginners and fluent Yiddish speakers are welcome. Anyone registered in the Yiddish Hour can also participate in Shir-Am, a Jewish singing group which takes place at 11:00 am at no extra cost.

For more information please call Rhona at 798-9818, ext. 253.



Shirley Steinberg



The Yiddish Chorale Ensemble







## SPECIAL MENSCHEN

Todah Rabah to ....

### Naomi Levitz and Zena Pearl

Some of the most special *mensch*en around the Soloway JCC are our teens. Two of our most community-minded teens are Naomi Levitz and Zena Pearl.

They are always willing to lend a hand at JCC events, and their happy smiles have given a special warmth to many of our programs.

Naomi, a Grade 13 student at Sir Robert Borden High School, also attends Akivah High School, and chose to do her high school co-op program in a Jewish setting, Hillel Academy.

Throughout her teen years, she has been very involved in BBYO. Currently she is Past President of Ottawa BBG and sits on the Regional Board where she is responsible for planning Judaic programming.

Naomi has helped out at numerous JCC events throughout the years - Arts Alive, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, and many Chanukah and Purim programs. This fall she ran in the Dor L'Dor Relay during our Opening Day ceremonies, helped supervise Sukkah crafts during our Sukkah Party in October, and participated in the UJA Super Sunday Tei'elhon.

Zena Pearl, a Grade 12 student at Canterbury High School, is a graduate of Akivah High School and a teacher's aid at Ottawa Modern Jewish School. She is currently President of United Synagogue Youth (USY) but still finds time to help out at the JCC.

A gifted artist, she generously shares her talent with the community in many ways. She helps kids create crafts at Yom Ha'Atzmaut and the JCC's Babies to Bubbies Jewish Family Life programs. Zena was helping out at the craft tables as usual, this fall in the Soloway JCC's first Jewish holiday program, our Sukkah Party.

Last year, her artwork graced the cover of the program booklet for Yom Ha'Atzmaut 50, and this fall she created the flyer design for the Teen Casino Night at the Soloway JCC, coming up November 28. (Please see ad in this page.)

Kol Kavod to these special teens, who enrich our community with their energy and talent.



Zena Pearl



Naomi Levitz



Saturday, November 28

7:30 - 10:00 pm

at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre

Black Tie Optional

A joint program of USY, Habonim-Dror, NCSY, FROSTY, BBYO

Admission: \$8 or \$6 with donation  
for the Kosher Food Bank

## BBYO off to a great start

B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) has gotten off to a great start in its new home at the Soloway JCC.

The recruiting has just started, but 45 teens have already joined. The AIT/MIT orientation for new members took place during a sleepover on October 17-18. Icebreakers helped new members get to know everyone.

After the Havdalah service, the BBG girls and AZA boys broke up into separate meetings and selected their Beau and Sweetheart for the year, Beatrice Garfinkel and Jacen Goldfarb.

They also started planning the fall programming. The next big event of the year will be Spirit convention on the weekend of November 20 to 22.

It's not too late to join and get in on the fun. Membership is \$45. For more information please call: AZA Stuart Rothman, 726-0010; BBG - Natalie Abenheim, 721-6023.



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Free coffee  
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Tickets:  
\$5 at door  
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A program of the  
Soloway JCC's  
Ner Tamid Festival  
of the Arts

## FITNESS & AQUATICS NEWS

Believe it! Fitness can be FUN – at the Soloway JCC!



Kickboxing their way to fitness

### THEY'RE GETTING A KICK OUT OF IT

Kickboxing was introduced at the Soloway JCC this month — and our members loved it!

So many people signed up a second class had to be opened. This course, taught by our own "gentle giant" Gennady Mishkis, concentrates on self-defense skills such as boxing, blocks, kicks, strikes, and speed reaction drills. It's a great workout but it's also a lot of FUN. Both teens (aged 15+) and adults have been attracted to the class which runs on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, 8:00 - 9:15 pm.

A Kids' Kickboxing class has also started for children aged 7 - 14. It takes place on Sundays, 11:15 - 12:30 pm.

Interested? For more information call Carla at 798-9818, ext. 278

### LEARNING FROM THE MASTERS

"The best way to stay motivated is to make your aerobics program FUN," says our Aerobics Manager Carla Gencher. "You can't expect people to do the same thing every day. Bo-o-ring." The JCC offers 27 Aerobics classes, with a variety of options, every week. Now Carla's come up with another way to inject fun into the Soloway JCC's aerobics program. She brings in guest instructors to teach specialty Master's classes, followed by refreshments. So far this fall our Aerobics Members have had a chance to try Cardio Hip-Hop, Power Yoga, and Skip Circuit. Coming up in the next weeks are: Salsa Step n' Sculpt, Sun., Nov. 29, 9:30 - 10:45 am; and Boxercise, Mon., Dec. 7, 9:30 - 10:30 am.

### STAYING STRONG OVER SIXTY

Working out with weights is the best way to prevent osteoporosis and bone loss in later years. Many older adults, however, have never used weights and don't know how to start.

Our S.O.S. (Strong Over Sixty) program is a guided exercise program using weights which will help you stay strong and independent in your 60's, 70's and even 80's. We're betting that you'll find working out with friends in the social atmosphere of the Soloway is also a lot of FUN!

### THE RHYTHMIC METHOD

Rhythmic Fitness, with instructor Doreen Keir — now into its second decade — is the JCC's kinder, gentler aerobics workout — and it really works.

It is particularly suited to older adults or those who are taking aerobics for the first time. The supportive social atmosphere of the group and the varied music selected by Doreen (who is an accomplished musician) keep people motivated and participating — the key component of a successful fitness plan. Each class ends with a discussion on different aspect of health and nutrition.

Mon - Thurs., 9:30 - 10:30 am

For more information call Carla at 798-9818, ext. 278.

### MAKE A SPLASH ON OUR SWIM TEAM

Kids, if you like swimming, this program is for you! The Soloway JCC wants to put together a Swim Team. We've lined up coaches and are planning on holding practices in the evening. (No early morning wakeups, mom!) Our long-term goal is to send a swim team to the Year 2000 Maccabi Youth Games. Our immediate goal is to offer kids an opportunity to improve their skills, make new friends and have loads of FUN in the fabulous Soloway JCC pool. If you are interested or would like to know more, please call Robin Jordan at 798-9818, ext. 279.



### MEMBERSHIP MAKES \$ENSE!

Become a Soloway JCC Member and save **BIG** at all the Ner Tamid attractions.

**Membership Discount -**  
\$11 on Adult tickets  
\$2 on Kids' Passports

Becoming a member is easy.  
Drop by the Membership Desk in our front lobby or simply call us at 798-9818, ext. 300.

*Would you like a tour or a Be-Guest pass?*

Call Miriam at ext. 231.



*It's your move!*

Drop-In Chess  
at the Soloway JCC

Ask for chessboard  
at the  
Noshery Deli

### Weight Watchers. 123 Success

**Tuesdays at the Soloway JCC ...**  
Classroom 5 at 8:30 am

*Still the safest, most effective weight loss plan around*

**NO REGISTRATION FEE** for Soloway JCC Members when they purchase a 7 week Savings Plan for \$77

If you do not wish to purchase the 7 week advance plan  
Adult Registration is \$30 plus \$12 /wk  
Senior/Student Registration is \$15 plus \$10 /wk



**KIDS!**

*Get in*

*on the action.*

*Meet your friends*

*at the*

*Soloway gym!*

**Co-ed Teen Basketball**

House League

Ages 13 - 17

A 4-team house league. Sign up or make your own team  
Mondays, 6:30 and 7:30 pm

**Maccabi Club**

Grades 5 - 7

A club for kids who love doing everything — as long as its sports! We try something different every week. Special trips include skating, wave pools, bowling, hockey games and more.  
Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

**Co-ed Teen Volleyball**

A great workout and a great way to socialize. Bring your friends; make new friends.  
Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

**After School**

**Basketball Clinics**

Kids of all ages can develop their skills and improve their game under the guidance of University of Ottawa coach Bobby Brown.

**Grades K - 2:** Mondays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Grades 3 - 5:** Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Grades 5 - 8 (girls only):** Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Gymnastics Club**

Grades K - 3

An introduction to gymnastics with the emphasis on fun. Learn to do forward rolls, handstands, cartwheels, balance beam and vaulting in a friendly supportive atmosphere.

Sundays, 1:10 - 2:30 pm

**For more information call**  
**Jon at 798-9818,**  
**ext. 267**

## JCC DOWNHILL SKI PROGRAM

IN CO-OPERATION WITH **Edelweiss**

**8 SUNDAYS, JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 28**

**Features:** •Eight 1-1/2 hour lessons (all day instruction optional)  
•Bus service and ski rentals available (no daily riders permitted)  
•Bus service from Soloway JCC, 1780 Kerr Avenue  
Pickup - 8:00 am; Dropoff - 4:15 pm



Program No.	Program (Prices include GST)	Lessons & Lifts	Bus	Rentals
1	Pee Wee Lessons (age 5-6) 1/2 Day - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	M \$110 • NM \$120	Parents must provide transportation	\$120
2	Junior 1/2 Day Lessons* (age 7-12)	M \$189 • NM \$199	\$75	\$120
3	Teen 1/2 Day Lessons* (age 13-17)	M \$225 • NM \$235	\$75	\$120
4	All-Day Instruction (age 7-15)**	M \$289 • NM \$299	\$75	\$120
5	Lifts Only (age 7-12)	M \$115 • NM \$125	\$75	\$120
6	Lifts Only (age 13-18)	M \$165 • NM \$175	\$75	\$120
7	Teen 1/2 Day Snowboarding Lessons (age 13-17)	M \$225 • NM \$235	\$75	\$120

\* Morning classes. Afternoon free ski. \*\* Classes 10:00 - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Maximum of 120 spaces ONLY available in lessons. Don't be disappointed. Register now!

### REGISTRATION

1. By mail - please use form provided below. Payment must be included. Cheques should be made out to: JCC Ski Program, Soloway JCC, 1780 Kerr Avenue, K2A1R9

2. In Person - At the Soloway JCC. Visa accepted

Registration Deadline: Edelweiss - January 4 Teen Bus - January 22

Rental measurements taken on January 7, 7:00 pm, Soloway JCC.

All skiers who need rentals should be present to ensure proper fit.

### JCC SKI PROGRAM '99 REGISTRATION FORM

Parents Names \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Skiers' Names	Age	Program #	Level*	Fee
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

### Rental Measurements

Ht. _____	Wt. _____	Boot Size _____	Fee _____
Ht. _____	Wt. _____	Boot Size _____	Fee _____
Ht. _____	Wt. _____	Boot Size _____	Fee _____
Ht. _____	Wt. _____	Boot Size _____	Fee _____

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\*Level: 1. Never skied 2. Snowplow 3. Glide Christies 4. Parallel  
Please mail to: JCC Ski Program, 1780 Kerr Avenue, Ottawa, K2A 1R9

### PLEASE NOTE:

Phone-in registration will NOT be accepted.

The JCC reserves the right to limit registration based on program or transportation availability.

Ski tags and group information will be mailed to you in early January.

### REFUND POLICY:

Complete refund less administrative fee of \$10 if notice of withdrawal received by January 5.

No refunds after January 5 except for medical reasons.

### Program No. 8 FOR TEENS ONLY

**Grades 9 - 13**

**5 Sundays**  
**Skiing**  
**Different Hills**  
**including White Face**  
**at Lake Placid and**  
**Mont Tremblant!**

**DATES:** January 31 - February 28

**HILLS:** Mont Tremblant (twice),  
Mont Ste-Marie, Edelweiss,  
White Face, Lake Placid

**COST:** M\$295/NM\$310 (rentals not included)

**DEPARTURE:** 8:00 a.m. from the Soloway JCC

**Experienced Skiers Only Please!**



## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

# Tiny Treasures Nursery School to honor Alti Rodal

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

Noted historian and author Alti Rodal will be honored by Tiny Treasures Nursery School at its annual dinner this spring.

The evening, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 4 1999 at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, is an annual event hosted by the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa in support of the Tiny Treasures Nursery School, its nursery program open to preschoolers aged 2 1/2 - 5.

In making the announcement, Dinner Chair Rose-Anne Prizant said her committee is 'absolutely thrilled' that Rodal has agreed to lend her name to the annual fundraising event.

"Alti Rodal is an inspiration to all," Prizant said. "She has played - and continues to play - a vital role in Canadian life from both a Jewish and secular stand-

point."

Alti Rodal was director of Historical Research for the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Nazi War Criminals in Canada (the Deschênes Commission) and author of the report *Nazi War Criminals in Canada: The Historical and Policy Setting from the 1940s to the Present*, portions of which remain classified.

Other parts of the report also known as The Rodal Report, were released by the Government of Canada over several years in response to Access to Information requests.

Rodal's forthcoming book, *Travesty of Justice*, which is due to be released in the Spring, makes her findings more accessible, and both updates and broadens the original study.

Born in Czernowitz, Romania, shortly after the Second World War, Alti Rodal

received her early education in Israel and after 1954, in Montreal. She holds degrees in French language and literature and in modern history from McGill and Oxford Universities.

Her professional experience includes several years of full-time university teaching in the field of modern Jewish history and thought. She has served as director of the French Program at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Oxford University, and was founding director of the Canadian Institute for Academic and Communal Jewish Studies. She has also served as consultant to the Institut québécois de recherche sur la culture and to the National Archival Appraisal Board and as Associate Director of Policy and Research for the Citizens' Forum on Canada's Future.

Rodal served on the national executive of both the Canadian Jewish Congress and of B'nai Brith, as well as on the board of directors of the Montfort Hospital. Most recently she served as adviser to the Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir and the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society on the future management of the community's historical archives.

"Tiny Treasures Nursery School provides a warm Jewish setting for preschoolers and their parents and provides an excellent resource - the Jewish Youth Library," says Alti Rodal. "And I like the people who run it. Dr. and Mrs. Caytak and their family are very sweet people



Alti Rodal

who are bringing up their own children with an ethic of service."

Rodal's address will focus on the messages contained in her new book.

"I'll try to draw out some of the conclusions we draw from how war criminals were dealt with," she explained. "And how as a nation now we might address any occasions when Canada encounters other contemporary similar problems."

For more information or to volunteer your help with the dinner, call Rose-Anne Prizant (521-9341).

## Responding to needs is way of life for Joyce Miller

(Continued from page 10)

encouraging attendance at shul and overseeing the shul's maintenance. Along with other members of the community, the Millers were instrumental in establishing the permanent Cornwall Jewish Community Cemetery which came into being in 1962. In addition, Farrand is active in a number of local community organizations.

Despite recurring health problems, the indomitable Joyce Miller soldiers on. She is still involved with both the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation and always can be counted on to welcome newcomers and

visitors to the Cornwall Jewish Community into her home.

"At the dinner honoring Joyce as Citizen of the Year, the statement that best reflected all that she is was contained in a letter written by her son," Lorna Rosenstein says. "It said, 'Mom, you are Citizen of Every Year.' And, she really is."

Joyce and Farrand Miller recently joined Agudath Israel Congregation as associate members. "We come to Ottawa frequently and attend shul here whenever we can," says Joyce. "We felt if we were using the synagogue, it was only right that we contribute to it."

### FLORIDA CONDO FOR RENT

1 bedroom available October 1 through January 15, 1999. Aventura, Williams Island Road. Parking included. Call 729-4640.

In the October 14 issue of the

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, the following names were inadvertently omitted from the listing of volunteers who participated in Super Sunday:

Elaine Adler-Stenzler  
Karina Bessoudo  
David Baker

We apologize for the error.



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## Looking For Something That May Change Your Life?

B.H.

The Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa invites you to attend a Seminar on Sunday, November 29, 1998

7:00 - 10:00 pm

Location to be announced

featuring

Rabbi Laibl Wolf  
of Melbourne, Australia

Rabbi Wolf is the creative and dynamic director of the Institute For Jewish Development based in Melbourne. He is currently on a North American tour.

### Hear about:

- Making Life Work for You - Time Management, Goal Setting and Spiritual Fulfillment.
- Friendships and Marriages - Why some succeed and others fail. How Western approaches to love create illusions.
- Transforming Negative Feelings - A spiritual approach to coping with anger and angry people.
- Learn Jewish meditative techniques to cope with stress management and much, much more ...

Call 729-1619 - Devora Caytak for more information



## ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

# One man sets out to repair our community's cemetery

(Continued from page 13)

manpower, also supplied many of the materials including drywall, insulation and carpentry.

The totally refurbished building now houses spanking new men's and ladies' washrooms, a lounge and an office. Visitors needing to take refuge on a cold day or just wanting a place to gather their thoughts, now have a place to retire.

But this is not the end of the story. Norman Potechin still has a wish list. Included on it are a new wrought iron fence to replace the existing rusted and bent one and paving the seven roads leading into the various sections of the cemetery.

Because the water supply is hooked to a well and septic system, it must be turned off prior to winter. As a result washrooms do not function in cold weather. The fountain used to wash hands,

located near the house, must also be disconnected. Bringing in pipes from the City of Gloucester and having them buried, would allow year round access to water.

But it's November and Norman is taking a break. Florida beckons with its promise of sun, golf and leisurely walks on the beach. It also gives Norman time to strategize and reorganize his game plan. Come Spring, re-energized and renewed, Norman no doubt will be on to phase two of the refurbishment of this vital piece of land that is owned by all of Ottawa's Jewish citizens.

It is written in Geshar HaHyim (Book on Cemetery Protocol): "Metzuvin anu lehader et hakevarim v'et Bet HaKeverot benikayon u'vekavod v'hadar."

Translation: We are commanded to treat graves and cemeteries with dignity, to keep them clean, respectful and nice.

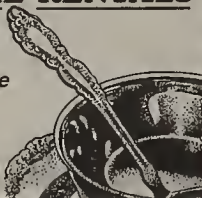
Be respectful  
when visiting  
the cemetery.  
You are asked  
to walk carefully,  
avoiding  
stepping  
on the  
graves.

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## MULTIPLE APPEALS COMMITTEE (MAC)

Gerald Levitz, Chair

### Application and Approval Criteria for Fundraising:

- Each organization must submit fundraising plans for the community year July 1st to June 30th sixty days before July 1st.
- Major/capital campaigns (\$100,000+) must apply one year in advance and only one campaign every five years per organization will be approved. No more than two local and one national/Israel based campaigns will be authorized in any community year.
- Campaign/events (\$25,000 - \$100,000) must apply 90 days in advance and only one campaign per year per organization will be approved.
- Campaigns/events (under \$25,000) which have been reported in fundraising plans previously submitted need not make a formal application. If not previously reported an application for approval is requested.
- Campaigns expected to raise 80% of their funds from the non-Jewish public and not more than \$25,000 from the Jewish Community must be listed in annual submissions or make an application for approval.
- No fundraising (with grandfathered exceptions) will be approved during the UJA window from September 15 to November 30 of each year.

#### Application Procedures:

The application in writing must include:

- Purpose of the campaign/event
- Campaign/event goal
- Date and results of the last fundraising campaign/event
- Beginning and ending dates
- Campaign method and form of solicitation
- Agreement to submit a report on the amount raised and the number of contributors

#### Recently Approved Applications:

- 1) Ottawa Jewish Historical Society (Major Campaign, July 1 - September 14, 1998)
- 2) École Maimonides School (Candlelighting Calendar - September 1998 and Scholarship Dinner - October 30, 1998)
- 3) American Assoc. Bikur Cholim Hospital (Parlour Meeting and Personal Solicitation - April 25-29, 1999)
- 4) Jewish Youth Library (Raffle, Dinner and Ad booklet - December 6 - May 30, 1999)

For more information on MAC or for a fundraising application, contact Stacia Benovitch at the Vaad (798-4696 ext. 234).

## Want to trace your family history?

Members of the community who are interested in tracing their family history have two different resources.

The Ottawa Jewish Archives is in possession of a catalogue which lists alphabetically Jewish gravesites at both cemeteries. The book was compiled by the Ontario Genealogy Society with the assistance of the late Yale Greenberg and other volunteers.

The Ottawa Jewish Genealogy Society is trying to raise its local profile and is actively seeking new members.

The society is putting together a library at the Ottawa City Archives, 174 Stanley Street. The group is also involved in accumulating information

for a Yizkor book.

Many Eastern European cities were decimated during the Holocaust. The attempt is to list names of people who perished, document the history and culture of these places so that families may be able to trace their roots. The long-term goal is to provide resources in libraries for people to access and research.

Jewish genealogical groups around the world have internet sites where people may search for relatives.

If you are interested in this project or any other material relating to Jewish genealogy, contact Charles Lapkoff (723-5114).

## ADVERTISER'S CORNER

*an occasional feature of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*

**ALL EVENTS PERSONAL AND CORPORATE PLANNING SERVICES**, under the stewardship of Aliza Gauzas, was founded locally in 1992.

The company offers comprehensive event design and production, consultation and a planning service. This includes arranging speakers, staff development programs, social activities, employee recognition as well as fundraisers, conventions and private parties.

Successful theme parties have run the gamut of western stagecoach heists to a night at the opera.

**ALL EVENTS** has the expertise and community links to facilitate, plan and coordinate any special event in a timely, effective and cost-efficient manner. The company boasts having the city's largest selection of invitations to choose from, with over 3,000 in the inventory. Also available are theme props, entertainment, florals, catering options and a wide range of locations to choose from.

The end result is unique and creative while working within the client's budget.

**ALL EVENTS** promises peace of mind to the client, knowing all the details are looked after by professionals dedicated to ensuring the success of the event.

Some of **ALL EVENTS** clients have included Sun Life, MD Management, DBO Dun Woody, Canadian Cable Television Association, JDS Fitel, Price Waterhouse and the Ottawa General Hospital.

Aliza Gauzas can be reached at 228-0718.

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## ISRAEL

# The Dead Sea - a source of life

The natural riches of the Dead Sea, well-known since ancient times, provide climatotherapy for a wide variety of ailments

By Lili Eylon

Cleopatra obtained exclusive rights over the area and had pharmaceutical and cosmetic factories built there, the remains of which can still be seen today. The ancient Romans called the sea Lacus Asphaltites and rich citizens had containers of its water brought back to Rome. Israelis call it *Yam Hamelach* - the Salt Sea. Today a large number of medical and other tourists are drawn to the special climatic, geographic, historical and balneological attractions of this region.

The Dead Sea, in fact, is dead - it harbors no living flora or fauna. But for thousands of people from all over the world who come to get a cure at one of its spas, this body of water spells health and quality of life.

Many of the hotel guests - suffering from a skin disease, an arthritic ailment or breathing difficulties - follow the same sunning and bathing regime. The results for Dead Sea treatment of psoriasis are consistently good, explains Prof Zvi Even-Paz of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Hospital's Dermatology Department, who immigrated from England 50 years ago.

Today a consultant to the Dead Sea Medical Research Center, Even-Paz recalls the beginning of Dead Sea health treatments, when it took seven hours to travel to the area from Jerusalem; today it is a half hour's drive. "In those days the place looked like a moonscape - no plants grew here and there were no electricity or telephone lines. We decided to conduct a study on 100 patients involving only the use of thermal springs. And even in those early pilot experiments, psoriasis treatment turned out to be very successful."

The Dead Sea is a terminal lake some 80 km long, 17 km wide, and 330 metres deep at its deepest point. It is fed by waters from the Jordan River to the north, from a few perennial springs and

from flash floods. The Dead Sea contains a high concentration of salts and minerals - calcium, potassium, magnesium and bromine - more than in any other body of water on the face of the earth - in fact, seven or eight times more than in the oceans. The area boasts dry, virtually non-polluted air, warm temperatures and minimal rainfall all year round.

The healing formula is a combination of natural elements: sea, sun, air and mud. The Dead Sea waters, the sunlight with its ultraviolet radiation weakened by filtering through the air to a region 400 metres below sea level, therapeutic mineral mud, high barometric pressure with consequently higher oxygen content, and sulfur pools - all this is highly beneficial to people suffering from a variety of skin, rheumatic, arthritic and pulmonary diseases. And the combination is unique - it exists solely at this spot on the globe. Moreover, Even-Paz says, the Dead Sea climatotherapy has almost no damaging side effects.

A number of studies into the health benefits of the Dead Sea have been or are being carried out. Still, Even-Paz stresses the need for even more studies and analyses, and Dr. Abels, who has been working at the Dead Sea for the last 10 years, agrees that more research is needed. "This alternative treatment is based on sound scientific principles," he stresses, "but we would like to see some more information, including more follow-up data." He says some 30,000 men, women and children spend 3-4 weeks each year at one of the many luxury hotels in the area undergoing treatments at one of the six clinics in the area. Psoriasis sufferers account for some two-thirds of the patients.

Dr. Harari, head of one of the six clinics, stresses the cost effectiveness of a Dead Sea psoriasis treatment. For a European patient the cost of a four-week stay - flight, hotel, cure - is about



The Dead Sea

\$3,000. For citizens of at least three countries - Germany, Denmark and Austria - the treatments are paid for or subsidized by their governments. Of the various dermatological treatments available, the Dead Sea treatment results in the longest remission time - 5-8 months - and recurrence is more likely to be in milder form.

Rheumatic ailments have been found to be greatly relieved by the use of the mineral-rich Dead Sea mud.

This black mud has also been found to have cosmetic value. Following

in the footsteps of Cleopatra, today more than 50 modern cosmetic plants manufacture cosmetics and skin-care products, such as moisturizers, shampoos, sun protection creams and soaps.



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for our Shabbat for Tots Drop-in Centre

B.H.



Located at Tiny Treasures Nursery School, 192 Switzer Ave. Open to Moms, Dads (or caregivers) and children 3 and under. Siblings are welcome. No pre-registration necessary. Every Friday 9:30 - 11:30 am. \$5 per family. Call 729-1619 for more info.

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## BOOK REVIEW

# The inexplicable Hitler of history

**Explaining Hitler:  
The Search for the Origins  
of his Evil**

By Ron Rosenbaum.  
Random House. 444 pages.

Reviewed by Tibor Krausz

Ron Rosenbaum's new book on Adolf Hitler is one of those rare books that have enough verve to carry the better part of their content on the dust jacket. In this case in a sepia photograph. "Explaining Hitler" sports a picture of the Führer as a chubby babe of about one and a half in a lily-white jumper and booties - pensive, wide-eyed, ruddy-checked. Hitler as a cuddly toddler?

If this unlikely picture of the Führer on the cover is bound to boost sales by its shock value, according to Rosenbaum it speaks volumes for the greatest riddle at the heart of the Hitler puzzle: Just how could he? How, that is, could Hitler go from baby to mass baby murderer, gravitate from perceived innocence to unimaginable depravity? Surely, no bad parenting (the readiest of excuses for mass murderers today) can ever adequately explain that. But then, Rosenbaum ponders, just what is it that made Hitler HITLER?

If you think it's a question hardly worth yet another 400 pages, think again.

Cumulative Hitler research over the past half-century has left behind a Library of Congress's worth of scholarship but not one consensus view of Hitler, Rosenbaum writes. Retrospect, after all, is an excellent vantage for historical character study, but one that can by definition yield only a retroactive outlook. And when incontestable evidence of motive is lacking, historians - surprise, surprise - can't help but flesh out their personalized Hitlers with conjecture.

"Hitler explanations are cultural self-portraits," Rosenbaum writes. "What we

talk about when we talk about Hitler is also who WE are and who we are not." Hitler, in other words, is as we want to see him (or not) as his baby picture amply demonstrates. Do we ever want to see the child from the man, see Hitler when he was not yet HITLER?

His biographers, Rosenbaum suggests, can rarely see one adult Hitler from another, much less see eye to eye on his metamorphosis from baby to baby killer. And so, the various Hitlers of history, or rather historiography, are all here in droves: the opportunist Machiavelli Hitler of Alan Bullock; the mesmerist Mephistopheles Hitler of Hugh Trevor-Roper; the dithering Hamlet Hitler of Christopher Browning; the Judeocidal Haman Hitler of Lucy Dawidowicz; the unHitler-like Hitler of Daniel Goldhagen. Then the period Hitlers: the Vienna Hitler, the Munich Hitler, the Beer Hall Hitler, the Berlin Hitler, the Bunker Hitler. Who can even begin to synthesize them all?

But if we can't fuse all his incarnations, just WHY do we want to explain Hitler in the first place? To find some rationale (ANY rationale!) for the Holocaust? To show he is not like any of us, or conversely, just like us? Unfathomable evil induces the kind of horrified fascination as does the sight of mindless destruction. And Hitler, the byword for both mindless evil and destruction, contradicts, puzzles, fascinates. The toothbrush-moustached Chaplinesque idologue turned mesmerizing Svengali of evil genius whose actions were anything but burlesque. We want to climb the mountain of understanding simply because "Hitler is there" - inextricably there in the Second World War, there in the Holocaust, there in modern Western man's loss of innocence. To understand Hitler is to know him; to know Hitler is to demystify him. But will we ever really understand Hitler? Can we?

Some like Claude Lanzmann, the

French director of the documentary "Shoah," answer all these questions with a resounding "No!" Indeed, Lanzmann goes the extra mile and considers the mere idea of trying to explain Hitler "perverse." To understand is to forgive, as we all know, and Hitler is the last person in history you want to forgive. But if Hitler may be too dangerous to explain, he is bound to be no less dangerous to ignore, Rosenbaum argues. Just as abstract psychohistorical theories, which seek to find explanation for Hitler's depravity in anything from an abusive father to the hallucinogenic effects of mustard gas in the trenches of the First World War, reduce Hitler to a victim of traumas and by implication acquit him of calculated guilt, so Lanzmann's rejection of any and all explanation absolves Hitler by mystifying him beyond the reach of human comprehension.

Contra Lanzmann, the Israeli Holocaust scholar Yehuda Bauer asserts that we not only should but we also CAN explain Hitler - in theory, that is. Just like any other individual, Hitler is theoretically explicable, Bauer argues, if less and less so in practice. The past 50 years have distanced the historical Hitler from us in so many ways: too many crucial documents have been destroyed or gone missing, too many invaluable eyewitnesses have died without giving full testimony, too many layers of politicized projections have been added to Hitler and his actions. Yet absent a grand unifying theory of Hitler's personality traits based on stone-cold facts, Rosenbaum shows, many historians cannot but make do with the second best alternative: a myriad of piecemeal theories based on the deductive evidence of psychoanalysis.

We now largely understand thoughts to be physical events like indigestion, the enigma of a man's beliefs and impuls-

es disappearing into a Petri dish of neurones and synapses, or neuroses and psychoses. There's assumed to be a calculable reason behind our every action the same way there's a measurable cause-and-effect relation between mass and velocity. And so modern psychohistorians hope to "compute" Hitler's character simply by adding up the different causal quotients of his psyche, substituting hidden variables with X and Y in their descriptive equations. Unluckily for Hitler's biographers, though, with the Führer the variables run from A to Z.

Even the definition of Hitler's despotism remains a contentious issue, Rosenbaum registers in detail. Was he more evil - if he was - than any other tyrants (Stalin, Pol Pot, Idi Amin) qualitatively determined by his unequalled depravity, or quantitatively, measured by the unparalleled number of his victims? Then did he knowingly commit evil, as Lord Bullock suggested, or was he "convinced of his own rectitude," as Bullock's scholarly nemesis Professor Trevor-Roper countered? Or was Hitler in fact the devil incarnate of near ultimate evil as Israeli theologian Emil Fackenheim posits, the same Fackenheim who made it the 613th Commandment for Jews not to hand Hitler a posthumous victory by assimilation?

Enter the revisionists. Some of Hitler's biographers flatly reject what they see as the demonization of Hitler to the exclusion of his associates and shift the blame for the Holocaust entirely on Himmler, Heydrich, Eichmann and lesser party hacks. Hitler apologists like the British revisionist David Irving want to

(Continued on page 27)

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## TRAVEL

# Bicycling in Tuscany sounded like a dream – It was!

By Paula Smith

For our vacation, six Ottawa friends (originally eight) planned a cycling trip to Italy.

It sounded like a dream ... bicycling in Tuscany ... in the autumn ... during the grape harvest ... together with good friends. I pictured wine-tasting in ancient cellars, sitting down for steamy heaping bowls of pasta, at lunch, and again at supper, seemingly endless olive groves and vineyards, rolling countryside stretching to the edge of the horizon, dotted with tiny picturesque villages, Italian looking, with baked clay-tiled roofs. And so it was.

Before meeting in Florence to pick up our maps, instructions and bicycles, we all chose to visit other Italian cities and towns. Heading first to Venice, my husband discovered that his driving style was perfectly suited to the Italian autostrada, where speed limits were posted but ignored by all, and hairpin turns at full throttle offered a remembrance of long forgotten adventures. In Venice, we toured the usual sites, but were particularly enchanted by the stories our guide told us about the origins of the Jewish ghetto and the synagogues and life as it was in the sixteenth century.

Others from our group spent a few days getting acclimatized by touring the Italian Riviera and hiking along the ancient rugged paths of the Cinque Terre coastline.

Returning to Florence, the heart of Italian Renaissance culture, there were so many outstanding galleries and palaces, it was impossible to see them all. But a site of particular interest to me was the Baptistery, across the square from the magnificent Duomo, where Ghiberti's wondrous bronze doors facing the Duomo, illustrate so many well-known and easily identifiable scenes and stories from the Old Testament.

Then we were together at last. The tally of injuries and ailments was impressive, and we hadn't yet mounted our bicycles. But, on schedule, we headed off to the hinterlands of Tuscany. Until that day, I had always imagined that "Tuscan hills" was a figure of speech. I was wrong on that one. The rolling hills extended as far as the eye could see. Up narrow roads of back and forth turns, edged by stone walls that had witnessed centuries of other adventurers, and up again and again.

Sunday was our first day of bicycling. We were a little unsure of the directions and backtracked, needlessly up a half kilometre hill. Still friends. We detoured briefly to visit the historic Certosa de Galluzzo monastery. Luckily, quick thinking allowed us to dart out only seconds before morning mass was to start. When we had passed the half-way mark of the route for Day 1, it was agreed that we had earned a lunch break, and found a spot in the hill town of Montespertoli. We savored heaping bowls of pasta with fresh tomato sauce, local wine and cappuccino and then headed out to complete the 53 km run for the day.

A major medical breakthrough was



Just a quick nap before "I'm on the road again." – Ron Vexler



Still friends. (Clockwise): Françoise Vexler, Victor Kaminsky, Laraine Kaminsky, Robert Smith, Paula Smith and Ron Vexler.



Paula and Robert Smith before tackling the rolling Tuscan hills.

discovered on Day 1. Injuries, a sprained ankle, heel spurs, and arthritis hobbled knees; all were miraculously healing themselves. It wasn't determined whether it was the strenuous bicycling, or the wine at lunch, but in either case, the group was mending as we went along.

Appropriately, the restaurant recommended for dinner was called Carpe Diem, (seize the day). And after a short nap, and a delicious Tuscan dinner, we called it a day, to get ready for our assault on the hill town of San Gimignano.

Day 2's ride was shorter and incredibly picturesque as the towers of San Gimignano appeared in the distance, ancient skyscrapers as testament to ancient rivalries and military planning. For the second day in a row, rain poured down while we lunched, and miraculously stopped as soon as we were finished. More pasta and wine and then a walk about the shops and studios of the local artists in a community known for this.

The, by now slightly fatigued, group headed for Sienna on Day 3, deep into Tuscany, where vineyards, mostly already harvested, covered hillsides. Here, in tiny hamlets and individual farms and villas, the Chianti wines are produced. We stopped at the thirteenth century fortress of Monteriggioni where a relaxed picnic lunch of fruit, cheese, tomatoes and fresh focaccia was enjoyed. After a brief nap on a park bench to help settle lunch, we were back

(Continued on page 21)

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## TRAVEL

# Ottawa and the Bombay connection

By David Spring

Who would have believed I would be getting an aliyah in Bombay? That's what happened this past summer when I visited India.

After ten years of exchanging letters and Shana Tova greetings between Agudath Israel Congregation and the Ahva Jewish community in Bombay, I visited and met with members of the Jewish community. While doing my research for the visit I was surprised to learn that Jewish contact with India dates back to the time of King Solomon. At that time, the Indian West Coast was part of the Hebrews' trading route and after the destruction of the Second Temple, settlements were established up and down the coast by "Bene Israel". The numbers and influence of the Indian Jewish community grew with a further wave of immigration from Iraq and Persia in the 17th and 18th centuries.

My India adventure started early one Saturday morning during a business trip this past August when I set out to find the local shul. It was situated in one of the old Jewish neighbourhoods of downtown Bombay in a beautiful building constructed in 1884 by Jacob Sassoon, a wealthy philanthropist. When I arrived at the synagogue, I was warmly greeted and had the honor of being the tenth person enabling those of us gathered to form a minyan.

Even on Shabbat it is difficult to form a minyan in Bombay. At the turn of the century the Jewish community had numbered in the tens of thousands, supported

ten synagogues and three Hebrew day schools. Today however, the community has shrunk to 3,500. Even though the number of worshippers was small I was made to feel at home and comfortable. The service was very familiar to me yet had a wonderful "Eastern spirituality" that I had never before experienced. It was led by a chazzan (there being no rabbi). Following the service, I was invited to a member's home for Kiddush and lunch.

The chazzan made contact, on my behalf, with the executive of the Ahva Jewish community which is located two hours by commuter train outside Bombay. I met with them the following day.

It was a very moving experience for me to present them with a plaque from Agudath Israel Congregation in honor of the ongoing relationship between our two communities and to be presented with a similar plaque to mark the occasion. More important were the warm feelings of common heritage and connection. Neither the geographical distance nor the differences in our cultural backgrounds seemed to make any difference to us. We ate together. We prayed together. We enjoyed each other's companionship. We bonded. They made me promise to visit again and extended a warm welcome to all members of the Ottawa Jewish community. I hope others will follow in my steps and make the journey ... Leshana Haba B'Bombay.

David Spring is the second vice-president of Agudath Israel Congregation.



David Spring (left) presents a plaque from Ottawa's Agudath Israel Congregation to Simon Issac, president of Bombay's Ahva Jewish community.

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## TRAVEL

## Bicycling in Tuscany sounded like a dream

(Continued from page 19)

on the road. Villas and castles appeared on the crests of the endless distant hills as we continued on through the Chianti countryside to Sienna and a day off our bikes.

After a day of sightseeing, meandering through the local market and the shops and museums, the group, now refreshed, enthusiastically headed out of town for the longest ride of the trip. After climbing a steep hill on the outskirts of Sienna, we had missed a turn and so returned to the bottom of the hill, crossing a plowed field and a wire fence, to pick up the route. After much consultation and discussion, it was decided that we were right the first time, and so we climbed the steep hill again. "My limit on this hill is three times," said Françoise Vexler laughingly to her husband as she approached the crest of the hill for the second time. Still friends.

This day offered new challenges, up and down rolling Tuscan hills on dirt roads, and through farmers' fields. Wine-tasting before lunch wasn't necessari-

ly the smartest plan, but it was on the route, and fun, in any case. A park in Radda in Chianti, on a high ledge overlooking the whole region, provided another picture perfect picnic place. And there was a bonus after lunch, a reward for all our hard work in hill climbing. We cruised down a 10 to 15 kilometre descent, relaxed and content to contemplate the timeless beauty of Tuscany.

This was our last night on the road, in a country inn, in an old converted farmhouse. By now our capacity for pasta and wine had grown exponentially. Dinner was served country style, including substantial portions of soup, pasta, veal and dessert.

The last day's ride was short, less than 30 km, and we arrived back in Florence before noon. The group felt a sense of joy at completing our journey, injuries having mended themselves, no new ones to report, and friendships enhanced by the shared exhilaration and experiences together.

And then back to our homes, families and work, having proved to myself that over the hill is a figure of speech.

## ISRAEL AT FIFTY

## Photo exhibition captures five decades of Israeli life

Fifty panels of photographs, representing each of Israel's 50 years of existence, recreate the color and intensity of Israeli history in a special exhibition entitled *Israel at Fifty: From Vision to Life*. Sponsored by the Embassy of Israel, the exhibit, will run from November 12 to 19 at the National Arts Centre (NAC) as part of the NAC's *Israel at Fifty* celebration.

Stunning snapshots create a mosaic of Israel's landmark events as it struggles and strives through decades of war, massive waves of immigration, industrial modernization, cultural pluralism and the challenges of a modern democracy. Images include the Proclamation of the Establishment of the State of Israel, the funeral of Prime Minister Rabin, meetings of Prime Minister Ben-Gurion with John F. Kennedy, paratroopers from the Six-Day War, the trial of Adolf Eichmann, immigration from Ethiopia and Vietnam and the multitude of rescue operations following terrorist attacks.

Also featured are photographs representing the people, places and things that have enriched and enlivened the country - Igor Stravinsky performing in Caesarea, the first Israeli delegation to the Olympic Games, Chagall's stained-glass windows in Jerusalem, Israel's first agricultural school, Pablo Casals and Isaac Stern at the first Israel Festival and Kibbutz Degania.

The exhibit is free of charge and takes place in the NAC Opera Foyer.



The Six-Day War: Paratroopers at the Western Wall.



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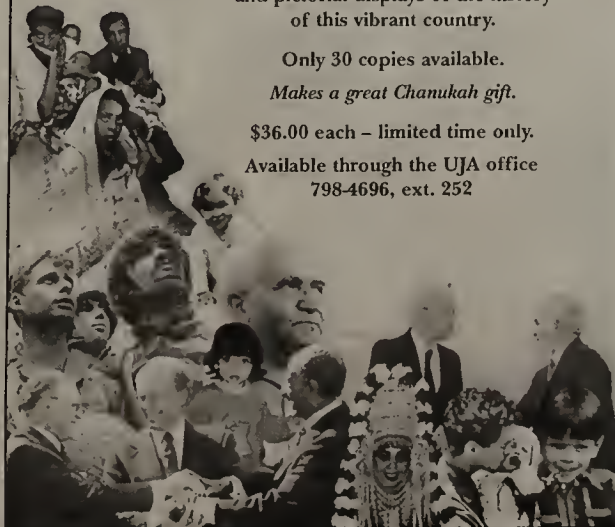
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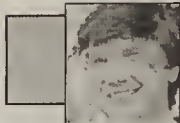




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KID LIT

DEANNA SILVERMAN

### *Clouds of Glory*

By Miriam Chaikin  
Woodcuts by David Frampton  
Clarion Books 1998  
120 pages Ages 9 and up.

In an article discussing good non-fiction writing Marc Gave, executive editor of Scientific American Books for Young Readers, is quoted as saying "... when a writer is passionate about a subject, the excitement can be contagious."

That thought lodged in my mind as I read *Clouds of Glory*, Miriam Chaikin's eloquent presentation of 21 Midrashim about the Book of Genesis. As the scholarly documentation at the end of the book reveals, some of the Midrashim are new versions of ancient rabbinical lore, especially Rashi's commentary, while others are original to Chaikin.

All are told in a narrative style that incorporates the best techniques of fiction writing and storytelling. The Midrashim are detailed and full of sensory stimulation. Each Midrash stands on its own, revealing specific insights about the biblical stories.

Together they are more than the sum of their parts. They develop and explicate the complexities of God and the Shekina, a heavenly world of angels, an outcast angel Satan, God's balance of justice and mercy in creating and dealing with a young, inexperienced humanity and the ever mysterious Emerald Book of Secrets.

At this point I can see a question forming in some readers' minds. Why would a book of stories that "search and explain" (the translation of Midrash) loopholes in the Book of Genesis, from Creation to the binding of Isaac, be of interest to Jewish children in the late 1990s? Where's the relevance?

My answer is that *Clouds of Glory* will be a totally new and different experience for today's youth, even for those who immerse themselves in science fiction and fantasy. It will give them a taste of a new way of thinking, a new way of problem-solving.

Why? Because just as science fiction stories obey the laws of science fiction, Midrashic stories "obey the laws of

Midrash." Quoting from Chaikin's informative introduction, "they are based on Bible teachings and are faithful to the sense of the original verse."

Midrashim carry readers back in time to an ancient level of spiritual thought that masterfully blends the rational with the intuitive in what is today called divergent lateral thinking. Add the resonance, through the ages, of the deeply held emotions of wise, caring people bound by faith to their One God and you feel yourself relating to a stratum of creativity, thought and love that is beyond words.

Fortunately *Clouds of Glory* lets us experience it. Readers need only surrender to the diaphanous magic, reverent-loving tone and exquisite sense of awe that is the world of the seven heavens and the bittersweet passions that characterize God's relations with early humanity (and probably with us).

I must admit that although I was aware of the concept of Sabbath angels and biblical references to Seraphim and Cherubim, it took me a long time to grasp the fact that Judaism, usually portrayed as so intellectual and logical, overflows with angels and demons. Where did they come from? Why are they needed?

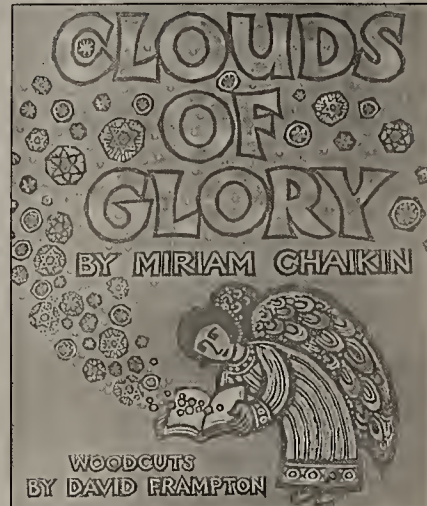
According to Midrash, angels were created on the second day as God's "helpers and companions." Throughout the stories Chaikin describes their appearance, organizational structure and tasks in such detail that one is immediately struck by the resemblance between many of their behavioural characteristics and those of people we all know.

Satan, for example, is portrayed as a jealous, mischief-making, almost petulant villain rather than Christianity's dark evil force. Even so, Satan's puerile temptations doom early generations of humanity - Adam and Eve, Noah's fellow citizens and, after the flood, Noah, his family and the generations through to the Tower of Babel.

The Midrashim tell us that God created humanity to be a partner in the earthly world, to care for it, to do good and be good, to understand and honor the Holy One. But goodness has to be a matter of choice.

God therefore created humanity with two urges, the urge to do good and the urge to do evil. The battle between these two urges lies at the heart of the remainder of Midrashim, indeed at the heart of all our bible stories.

Only Abraham and Sarah, after they have



From *Clouds of Glory*

thought their way from being star worshippers to belief in a single invisible God, are able to withstand Satan's temptations and tests. By remaining true to the One God they earn the right to become Judaism's first patriarch and matriach. Readers can feel God and the angels *quelling* with pride.

David Frampton's dramatic full-color woodcuts imbue the Midrashim with an aura of surrealism that further excites and challenges imagination. They also serve as a welcome anchor for readers who can't help but be affected by *Clouds of Glory*, a book to own, read and discuss again and again. Yes, it is contagious.

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## FROM SOUP TO NUTS

## Soup warms you from the inside out

SOUP  
TO  
NUTS

DONNA KARLIN

This time of year I love to make substantial soups to take the chill off, from the inside out. I'm always trying to come up with new vegetarian ones, though once in a while I make use of leftover chicken by making it into a soup.

Adding a salad and fresh bread makes a healthy, delicious meal. Remember to make a double batch so you can feed the freezer!

Country Minestrone Soup  
with Tomato Pesto

7 oz red kidney beans  
7 oz white kidney beans  
Salt and pepper to taste  
7 oz green beans  
2 medium zucchini  
2 medium potatoes  
2 medium carrots  
7 oz fresh or frozen peas  
Freshly grated Parmesan cheese

## Tomato pesto:

2 tomatoes  
Generous amount fresh basil to taste  
Salt and pepper to taste  
3/4 cup olive oil

The night before cooking soup, place red and white kidney beans in separate large bowls and cover with cold water. Let the beans soak overnight. Drain beans sepa-



ately and rinse in colander under running water. Place in separate saucepans, cover each with water and bring to a boil. Simmer for 1 1/2 hours until tender. Add salt. Trim the green beans removing the strings, and cut them into 1" pieces. Trim and dice the zucchini. Peel and dice the potatoes and carrots. Place all the cooked beans, diced carrots, potatoes, green beans, zucchini, peas, salt and pepper into a large pot. Barely cover with water and bring to a boil. Simmer for approximately 45 minutes to an hour, until the vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat. **For pesto:** In a saucepan boil water and blanch the tomatoes. Peel the tomatoes. Cut them in half, seed and chop. Remove the leaves from the basil stems. Peel the garlic cloves. Place the tomatoes, garlic, basil leaves, salt and pepper into a food processor. Purée until smooth and then add the oil slowly, while continuing to blend. Adjust the seasoning. Reheat the vegetable soup. Remove from heat and stir in the tomato pesto. Serve with freshly grated Parmesan cheese. Serves 6.

## Butternut Squash Bisque

1 tsp olive oil  
1 cup finely chopped celery  
1 cup finely chopped onion  
2 1/4 cups coarsely chopped, peeled, seeded butternut squash  
1 1/2 cups coarsely chopped, peeled russet potato  
1 3/4 cups ripe pear, peeled, cored, coarsely chopped  
3 cans (14 1/2 ounces each) vegetable broth  
1 cup water  
1/4 tsp ground cumin  
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg  
1/4 cup half-and-half  
Salt, freshly ground pepper to taste

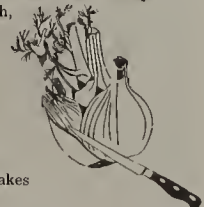
Heat oil in 3 quart pot over medium-high heat. When hot, add celery and onion. Cook until hot, about 3 minutes. Add remaining ingredients (except half-and-half,

salt and pepper). Simmer, covered, until squash and potato are soft, about 25 minutes. Strain vegetables from cooking liquid, reserving both. Purée solids in food processor until completely smooth, about 2 minutes. Add 1/2 cup reserved liquid to food processor to make mixture even smoother. Return puréed mixture and reserved liquid to pot. Add half-and-half. Heat through. Adjust seasoning. Can be made 3 days ahead and refrigerated or frozen as long as 6 months. Gently reheat. Serve hot.

**Note:** The small amount of half-and-half cream gives it the smoothest finish. It can be omitted if you choose. Serves 6.

## Roasted Squash and Leek Soup

1 medium butternut squash,  
halved lengthwise,  
seeds removed  
2 medium leeks,  
cut into 1" slices  
2 cans (14 1/2 oz each)  
vegetable broth  
1/2 cup milk  
4 fresh sage leaves  
Salt, crushed red pepper flakes  
to taste



Heat oven to 450°. Line a baking sheet with foil and lightly grease the foil. Cut the squash crosswise into 1 1/2" slices and place in a single layer on baking sheet. Bake until the bottom is nicely browned, about 20 minutes. Turn over and add the leeks. Bake 10 minutes more. When it's cool enough to handle, cut the peel from the squash. Transfer the squash and leeks to a medium saucepan. Add the broth, cover and bring to a boil. Simmer until the leeks are tender, about 15 minutes. Add the sage. Purée the mixture in a food processor or blender. Stir in milk until serving consistency. Add salt and pepper flakes to taste.

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## SIXTY SOMETHING



### SIXTY SOMETHING

RUTH WEITZ

## Do you dream?

I gathered the following information from Dr. Henry Reed's book on dreaming.

Mozart, Wagner, Dante, Voltaire, Tolstoy and Poe all had dreams which contributed to their work. Both Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and Goethe's *Faust* originated in their dreams.

Do you dream? Is it possible that dreams come from our memories, maybe long forgotten? Can we understand our dreams and interpret them?

I dream every night. In the morning, when I awake, I try to reconstruct what I was doing all night but, try as I might, I cannot. However, I do remember if I wake up during or right after a dream. I keep a note pad and pen on my night table and, in the dark, write down the dream. Come morning, I read my notes, only to discover that in the dark I wrote one line on top of another and cannot decipher anything, or my scrawl is so bad I cannot read that either. So much for keeping notes.

Soon after my father died, the dream I had about him still haunts me 30 years later. I was at his grave site and I heard him calling to me. I looked down to see his hands coming up from the ground. His voice, exactly like it always was, said, "Get me out. I do not belong here. It was all a mistake."

And he was right. He died because of a doctor's mistake. No. I did not sue. I never sued anyone in my life.

I once dreamed my family and I were on a yacht. My daughter Terry fell overboard and was being eaten by a shark. I screamed so loud and so long I woke myself up. I was so distressed, I could not go back to sleep.

The next day, I called my daughter to ask if she was contemplating a cruise and, if so, she should not go. To her credit, she did not make fun of me and assured me she was not planning a boat ride of any kind.

I once dreamed a man was standing at the head of my bed and staring at me. I awakened, but the figure was so real I was afraid to open my eyes. I kept them closed for a long time. Scared, I finally did look. Of course, no one was in my room, but this apparition was so real I could not get back to sleep.

As soon as my head is on the pillow and my eyes close, I begin to dream. Or am I dreaming? My mind goes into overtime, so do I dream awake? Or do I sleep and not realize I am sleeping? Am I thinking a dream or am I dreaming awake? How do unremembered dreams affect me?

Some years ago, I was scheduled to moderate a discussion group. For days, I walked around thinking of how to introduce the group of people. I kept thinking of and tossing away clever things to say. I was not happy with anything I came up with. Would you believe the answer came to me in a dream? There I was sitting at a table facing a couple of hundred people, in my dream, you understand, and suddenly all the right words came out of my mouth. This time, I remembered, if not all, at least the gist of my introduction. In the morning, I wrote the new dialogue.

Last night, I found myself walking alone on dark streets, I knew not where for I was lost. I turned corners, I retraced steps, but I never got anywhere. I never met anyone to ask where I was. Maybe I was lucky I did not meet anyone. Anyway, here I am writing about it. The one thing I know is that I am awfully tired from so much walking.

I must go to the library and bring home a book on dreams. If I learn something interesting, I will give you another column with more information.

## Art Works / Rose Ann Hoffenberg

### Katerina Mertikas, BUSY WEEK AHEAD, 1998

*Editor's note: The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building has been enhanced by several gifts of art. Beginning with this issue of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, the Art Works editor Rose Ann Hoffenberg will profile these works.*

This is one of two works donated by Benjamin Feinstein to mark his 100th year (see *OJB*, October 14, 1998) and to commemorate the opening of The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building.

Katerina Mertikas' paintings are filled with active children in everyday scenes, such as running for the school bus, falling into puddles, or tobogganing down hills. Her titles are assigned after the works are completed and in this case, she could well have been thinking of her own busy life. Certainly her personal loves are found in every centimeter of paint on board.

As a child, the artist wanted to be a fashion designer. Today she scans magazines and children's clothing stores for the latest fashions in which to dress her painted youngsters. Her two daughters who are now in their twenties, often find themselves in their mother's paintings as the timeless child.

If you look at the second story window of the building in this work you will see a self-portrait of an industrious, vibrant young woman who completes 150 works every year. Mertikas was born in Greece and although she has made Canada her home, she has strong emotional ties to the ancient country. Her choice of bold, bright colors echo the warmth of her native land.

Here lies an issue that has concerned me for some time: the background mountains and deep blue waters anchoring Mertikas' lively scenes have nothing to do with Canada, and yet they are there. At



*Busy Week Ahead, Katerina Mertikas, 1998*

the same time, when Katerina and her family go to Tripoli, Greece for their summer holidays, scenes of ice and snow puzzle the Greek audience. I conclude, therefore, that immigrants bring their culture with them wherever they go, and that those traditions are altered irrevocably by their new environment. Furthermore, the conventions of the adopted country, in this case, Canada, are permanently changed by contact with foreign customs (southern colors depicting northern scenes, for example.) The result is an enriched transformation of the old culture but often at the expense of the newcomer. The immigrant artist struggles to keep feelings of home-sickness, nostalgia and sentiment out of her or his work. In this case, that tenuous sense of belonging, the continual search for identity happily acts as a catalyst for Mertikas' universal works.

I searched in vain for artists who might have inspired Katerina. I was not

surprised at her love of Matisse's colors, but her works are uniquely her own. The style can best be described as naive and expressionist with an outpouring of emotions. She captures a moment in time to which any viewer can relate.

The entire world has had the opportunity to respond to the happiness and joy of her figures because they were viewed internationally on UNICEF cards on five separate occasions. In addition, in 1995 her image was used for a stamp when the States of Guernsey (the Channel Islands) were celebrating the 50th anniversary of UNICEF.

We can delight in her narratives on the second floor of the The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, in many other institutions throughout Ottawa and at her next exhibition at Koyman's Gallery in the Rideau Centre opening on November 27, 1998.

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Mazal Tov to Rhoda and Lawrence Zimman on the birth of their grandson by Fran and Stan Ages.

Best wishes to Howard and Iboya Goldberg for a r'luah sh'lemah by Fran and Stan Ages.

Mazal Tov to Rose and Chick Taylor on the engagement of their son Allan to Denise by Fran and Stan Ages.

Mazal Tov to Zelaine and Sol Shinder on the birth of their twin granddaughters by Fran and Stan Ages.

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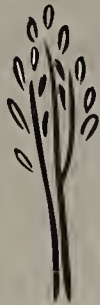
FOR OTTAWA JEWISH ARCHIVES

Mazal Tov to Shirley Berman on her retirement as archivist of the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society by Laura and Gordon Spergel; by Shella and Morton Baslaw; by Casey and Bess Swedlove; by Ethel and Irving Taylor; and by Pauline Hochberg and Archie Kassner.

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Best wishes to Zayde Ben Feinstein on his 100th birthday by Orly, Stan and Akiva Aaron; and by Georges and Annette Buzelan.

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Best wishes to Benjamin Feinstein on his special birthday by Leah and Freda Steinman; by Vila and Stan Winthrop; by Ken Kavanat; by Rose and Esau Kavanat; by Gerry and Morrie Krantzberg; by Doris Leibovitch; by Marion and Tony Alberga; by Rose and Chick Taylor; by Robin and Len Mader; by Phyllis and Ab Flatt; by Iris and Frank Loves; by Diana and Alvin Malomet; by Clair and Julius Krantzberg; by Ben Peters; by Milton and Joyce Kimmel; by Rhona and Ron Harrow; by Ellen Litwick; by Marilyn and William Newman; by Walter and Rita Cole; by Shelley and Morris Schachnow; by Edith and Fred Birns; by Shirley Rose and family; by Ruth and Myron Popov; by Susan, Sharna, Harriet and Joe; by Marilyn and Dan Kimmel; by Sara and Bob Ritter; and by Bertha, Barbara and Pinkus Pleet.

Wishing Hy Calot a r'luah sh'lemah by Pearl and David Moskovic.

### JOSEPH AND BETTY FELLER FUND

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Wishing Gert Goldstein a r'luah sh'lemah by Alfred and Kaysa Friedman.

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Best wishes to Herman Roodman for a speedy recovery by Ida Gaffen and family.

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Wishing the Carolsky family good health by Howard and Iboya Goldberg.

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Mazal Tov to Morley Goldfield on his son Gary receiving his Ph.D. by Rose and Chick Taylor.

In memory of Donna Segal by Asa, Eva and Eric Goldfield.

Best wishes to Harold Cohen on his special birthday by cousin Morley Goldfield and family.

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With appreciation to Dr. Danny Levine by Shelley and Morris Schachnow.

In memory of Estelle Weiss's dear mother by Ginsberg, Gluzman, Fage and Levitz.

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Best wishes to Shirley Berman on her retirement as archivist of the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society by Ann and Art Lazear.

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Best wishes to Hy Hymes on his special birthday by Cindi and Mark Resnick and family.

### JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE FUND

Wishing Dr. Robert Spencer a r'luah sh'lemah by Barbara and Mickey Breslow.

Continued on page 26

## Music Education Fund to support local Jewish institutions

Thanks to the bequest of a former Ottawa resident, a Music Education Fund has been established in the Ottawa Jewish Community. The initial aim of the fund is to support and promote music education programs through grants to local institutions such as schools, summer camps and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

The creation of the fund resulted from the last wishes of Yigal Harband to assign the largest part of his estate to "assist Jewish children in advancing their musical and educational needs." Yigal, who was an avid, self-taught amateur musician himself, came to Canada from Israel in the early 1970s. After pursuing advanced studies in mathematics, he gravitated to the high-tech field, working mainly in Ottawa

and Toronto. In Ottawa, he also taught Hebrew at the Talmud Torah Afternoon School and mathematics at the Torah Institute. He spent his last years in Vancouver, where he died of cancer in 1995 at the age of 47. Though he lived a fairly solitary and unsettled life, his genuine warmth, boundless intellectual curiosity, and eagerness to share his knowledge touched everyone who knew him.

The co-executors of Yigal's will, Usher Caplan of Ottawa and Rabbi Yitzchak Wineberg of Vancouver, decided to designate approximately \$43,000 of the estate for the fund in Ottawa. The fund is managed by the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation. A committee is currently being formed to advise the Foundation on the selection of recipients of grants.

A small group of interested community members met informally in October to explore in general terms how the fund might be used, and how it might be expanded to serve as a focal point for increased support of music education.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Music Education Fund, and in particular anyone who would like to contribute ideas or participate in the work of the selection committee, is invited to contact Usher Caplan (725-9079) or Orly Aaron (Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, 798-4696, ext. 272).

The Music Education Fund in memory of Yigal Harband is open-ended and contributions can be made at any time by calling the Foundation office (798-4696, ext. 274).



Yigal Harband and a young friend, Ottawa, 1985



## DONATIONS

With appreciation to Estelle Melzer by Rose and Chick Taylor.

Wishing Ruth Leith well by Bill and Phyllis Leith, Jordan and Laurie and David and Lisa.

In memory of Miriam Feldman by Mark and Cindi Resnick and family.

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Best wishes to Tillie Leslie on her special birthday by the Kronick family.

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Wishing Sylvia Shier a happy special birthday by Jean and Max Naemark.

**MAYER AND ROSE LANDAU MEMORIAL FUND**

Mazal Tov to Morris and Nancy Segal on the marriage of their grandson Joshua to Stephanie Katz by Sally and Morton Teller.

Mazal Tov to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Maker on the marriage of their son Joshua to Stephanie Katz by aunt Sally and uncle Morton Teller.

**LILY AND MORRIS LANG FUND**

Best wishes to Lily and Morris Lang on their 50th wedding anniversary by Shirley Rose and family; by Howard and Ibolya Goldberg; by Esther Greenberg; by Sarah Saper; and by Eileen Goldberg.

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Best wishes to Evelyn and Joseph Lieff on their 45th wedding anniversary by Dundi and Lyon Sachs.

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Wishing Beatrice Stein a speedy recovery by Claire Metrick.

Wishing Gert Goldstein a speedy recovery by Claire Metrick.

Congratulations to Esther Baker on her special birthday by Claire Metrick.

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In memory of Dr. Sol Chemin's sister Sadie by Goldie and Elliot Moraff.

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of a dear father and grandfather by Kathleen and Alex Polowin, Cary and Sheldon.

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Best wishes to Benjamin Feinstein on his 100th birthday by Evelyn and Norman Polechin.

Mazal Tov to Carol Shikma on becoming president of the Shaar Zion Congregation by Evelyn and Norman Polechin.

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In memory of Rose Kalman's sister by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

Best wishes to Fran Greenblatt for a speedy recovery by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

In memory of Ben (Barchik) Greenberg by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

Wishing Beatrice Handel well by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Arnold and Chevy Fine on the marriage of their daughter Alieza Orlee to Stanley Joseph Abraham by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

In memory of Beatrice Zagon by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of Rachel Fine by Milton and Sarah Shaffer.

**GOLDIE AND MAURICE SHABINSKY MEMORIAL FUND**

Best wishes to Eileen and Bob Landau on their wedding anniversary by Gloria and Barry Trainoff and family.

Best wishes to Sol and Anna Shabinsky on their wedding anniversary by Gloria and Barry Trainoff and family.

**ARNOLD SHINDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Best wishes to Adele Shinder on her special birthday by Roy and Carol; by Lloyd and Ronnee Alter; by Arnie and Rhonda Schaffer; by Steven, Nancy, Katie, Michael, Pam, Aaron, Debora and Bryan; by Ann and Mark Dover; and by Margo and Judah Silverman.

**ISRAEL AND JEN SHINDER FUND**

Best wishes to Is Shinder on his special birthday by Margo and Judah Silverman; by Ernest and Ray Goldstein; and by Gert Goldstein.

**STELLA AND LDUIS SLACK MEMORIAL FUND**

Best wishes to Sam Slack for a r'fuah sh'lemah by Myra, Lester, Jennifer, Donna, Gregory and Jordan Aronson; by Harvey Slack; by Clara Slack and family; and by James, Bonnie, Stacie, Adam and Noah Carroll.

Best wishes to Lea and Yitzhak Kalin on their 50th wedding anniversary by Myra, Lester, Jennifer, Donna, Gregory

and Jordan Aronson.

Best wishes to aunt Charlotte Slack for a r'fuah sh'lemah by Myra, Lester, Jennifer, Donna, Gregory and Jordan Aronson; and by James, Bonnie, Stacie, Adam and Noah Carroll.

**SLIPACOFF FAMILY FUND**

Best wishes to Eric Seim on his 90th birthday by David and Barbara Slipacoff, Monica, Sharon, Ian and Avi.

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Wishing Jack Smith continued good health by Mark and Cindi Resnick and family.

**GORDON AND LAURA SPERGER FUND**

Mazal Tov to Laura and Gordon Sperger on their 50th wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. G. Onysko.

Wishing Hy Calof a r'fuah sh'lemah by Laura and Gordon Sperger.

Mazal Tov to Sara and Hugh Shabsove on their 50th wedding anniversary by Laura and Gordon Sperger.

Mazal Tov to Benjamin Feinstein on his special birthday by Ray and Brenda Ryan.

**LEAH, FREDA AND HENRY STEINMAN FUND**

With appreciation to Norman and Evelyn Polechin by Leah and Freda Steinman.

**CASEY AND BESS SWEDLOVE FUND**

With appreciation to Michael Shapiro by Shelley and Morris Schwachnow.

**JAY B. TALLER MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of Mortimer English by Sally and Morton Teller.

In memory of Molly Borenstein by Sally and Morton Teller.

In memory of Rabbi Jacob Cement by Sally and Morton Teller.

**SAMUEL AND ANNE TALLER FUND**

Mazal Tov to Evelyn and Joseph Lieff on their 45th wedding anniversary by Anne Teller.

In memory of Rubin Riskin by Rhoda and Jeff Simbrow, Abbey and Zack; by Marilyn, Lori and Wendy Wasserman; by Enid and Jeff Gould, Andy, Jill and Mami; and by Anne Teller.

**CHARLES AND ROSE TAYLOR FUND**

Best wishes to Joe Ghetler for a speedy recovery by Rose and Chick Taylor.

**ETHEL AND IRVING TAYLOR FUND**

Best wishes to Harriet and Irving Stone on their wedding anniversary by Ethel and Irving Taylor.

Continued on page 27

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## In Appreciation

Words cannot express our profound thanks to everyone in the community for their care and concern during my (Rabbi Braun) recent illness and our daughter Elisheva's recent illness. We are most appreciative of all the prayers, visits, calls, cards and donations made on our behalf.

**Rabbi Ely and Sheli Braun and family**

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of a dear son and brother Michael Tordntow by Bea Tordntow and family.

In observance of the Yahrzeit of Michael Tordntow by aunt Jean and uncle Max Naemark.

### SONIA AND JOSEPH WEINSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

Best wishes to Herbert Saslove for continued good

health by Yetta and Larry Aron.

Best wishes to Hy Hymes on his special birthday by Yetta and Larry Aron.

### MAX H. AND CARDLINE WEISSBORD MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of our dear parents Max H. and Caroline Weissbord and Icek and Goldie Singer by Zenith and Ruth Singer.

Contributions may be made by phoning

Kayla Mallay at 798-4696 extension 246, Monday to Friday anytime. We have voice mail. Attractive cards are sent to convey the appropriate sentiments. All donations are acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes. We accept Visa and Mastercard.

## Local business raises funds for Jewish Community Foundation

Commvesco Levinson-Viner Group held its first Annual Charity Golf Tournament on September 28. Its mission in organizing this event was to provide a special day for its clients while providing a charitable donation to aid the community.

A percentage of the monies raised went to establish the Commvesco Levinson-Viner Group Endowment Fund.

Through the sponsorship of many

local businesses, as well as larger corporations, the tournament was a marvelous success. All 18 holes displayed corporate signage at each tee and several holes had challenging contests for the participants.

The day brought out 107 golfers and another 15 for the dinner and reception. Manderley on the Green Golf Club hosted the tournament and a wonderful time was had by all who attended.



Commvesco Levinson-Viner Group (left to right): Jacie Levinson, Norman Lesh, Mike McGahan, Ted Christeas.

**An unveiling  
in memory of  
Ann Wolff  
will take place  
Sunday,  
November 22, 1998  
at 11:00 am  
Jewish Community  
Cemetery  
Bank Street South  
Family and friends  
are welcome to attend**

# The inexplicable Hitler of history

(Continued from page 1B)

distance Hitler from his regime and end up, as Rosenbaum succinctly puts it, separating "the history-making magnitude of the man from the kind of history he was making."

So ultimately, the best clue to Hitler's personality may be not how others have seen him but how he saw himself.

"Der Führer," the failed painter, saw himself as Nietzsche's famous artist-politician who transcends time and place and elevates politics to the highest art form. And like the artist that he fancied himself to be, Hitler took poetic license over all moral conventions of liberal Europe (as he believed, so the world must be) and would profess to regret until his very end that the call of politics had deprived him of the chance to live up to his artistic genius. Yet even in destruction, Rosenbaum describes US historian Berel Lang arguing Hitler was an artist who consciously brought the demonic, "decreative" art of pragmatic extermination to perfection, using human suffering as his canvas.

Then there is the British-Jewish intellectual George Steiner's postmodern Hitler who drew inspiration from Franz Kafka, transforming the Czech writer's "Metamorphosis" into his own insecticidal anti-Semitism (Jews as vermin) and "The Penal Colony" into a death-camp archipelago. But Hitler's magnum opus, by many accounts, was his own enduring myth. Pre-empting his biographers, Hitler created his own hagiography, an inflated, quasi-religious mystique of himself as superhuman genius. To be sure, Hitler's public persona (his messianism, his duality, his megalomania, his destructive urge) was as much of his own making as of people's interactive projection, but just how much of this and that is still under much dispute.

Rosenbaum's book comes on the pages of another title on Hitler research, "The Hitler of History" by John Lukacs, an American professor emeritus of history and author, whose tract displays a fuzzy photo of the Führer on the cover, the implication being we can never see Hitler other than through the smoke-

screen of our preconceptions. To Lukacs, even more so than to Rosenbaum, Hitler biographies are more like character studies of their authors than Hitler himself. Throughout his footnote-encumbered collation of the 100-plus Hitler biographies runs this streak: the question WHY, not just HOW, we want to explain Hitler will inevitably influence the answer. In short, he argues, "one cannot separate the historian from his history," nor Hitler from his historian.

What unsettles most about Hitler, Lukacs argues, is that he was not a complete human aberration but, rather, an individual who was in many ways almost "normal": so much so that Dr. Bloch, the Jewish family physician who treated Hitler's cancer-ridden mother, Klara, before her death, would later assert that he had never seen "a young man so stricken with grief" as the "shy and effusively polite" Hitler, who would remain forever grateful to the Jewish Bloch even as he was sending his co-religionists to their death by the millions. A Hitler of such contrasts, however, greatly disturbs many other researchers, Rosenbaum not least.

In his quest for Hitler's "dehumanizing" idiosyncrasies, Rosenbaum inevitably lurches onto the terra infirma of Hitler theories. Despite his investigative probity, he can't seem to resist the tabloid poetry in the lurid details of Hitler's purported secret perversions: his alleged excretory fetishism; his alleged incestuous liaison with his half-niece, Geli Raubal; his alleged impotence and missing left testicle; his alleged Jewish grandfather, making Hitler a self-hating crypto-Jew. Inexorably, such biographical apocrypha makes his take on Hitler explanations a jumble of retrospective conjecture, its examples ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. And this is where Rosenbaum's search for the Hitler of history short-changes us. Even after a half-century, are we no better off in the way of explanation than a sexual perversion, alleged or real, to unlock Hitler's psyche?

Maybe not. If his book is any indication, behind Rosenbaum's interest in

Hitler lies a popular reflex: a wish for a secret "defect" that will explain it all. Short of a Rosetta stone to Hitler's pathological hieroglyphs, historians end up trying to explain Hitler with his pants down, as if a perversion worthy of a Jerry Springer Special could rationalize the clinically detached sadism of masterminding the extermination of six

million people (men, women, infants and octogenarians). Hitler, we rightly feel, still has a lot to answer for. Yet just as he escaped justice by his suicide, so he has escaped explanation so far. And ultimately that may be his vilest crime: he has redefined evil for us but left us no real reasons.

After him the deluge.

## The CCRJ's new president, Nancy Bercovitch: Weaving Judaism into her life

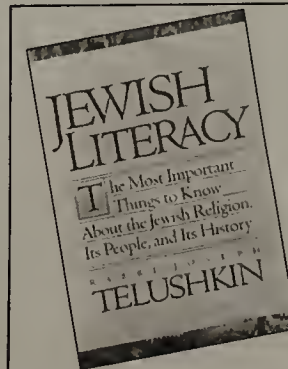
(Continued from page 4)

ings such as trips to Israel and the leadership camp in Warwick, New York.

She is particularly excited about the CCRJ's new summer camp "For Living Judaism" that will open its doors this summer. Children ages 8 to 16 will be able to join one another for a summer of Jewish learning and fun, on a site near Parry Sound, Ontario. The incoming president's biggest task, however, will be to ensure that all CCRJ members feel connected to the parent organization. With members scattered throughout the country, it is often difficult for them to

feel part of an organization whose national office is centralized in Toronto. "My greatest challenge, I think, is going to serve two more years after that. She is clearly looking forward to the challenges ahead. "It's satisfying because I love meeting people and I love trying to help people. That seems to be where I am in my life right now ... I just hope that I do a good job. That's my one hope."

B.H.



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**Ner Tamid • November 21-22**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
<p>Jewish Family Services/ Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Golden Age Club, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 12:00 noon.</p> <p>Temple Israel, The Waltons, Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier, Hull, 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Kristallnacht - 60 Years, Shoah Holocaust Remembrance Committee, Agudath Israel, Sanctuary, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:00 p.m.</p>		<p>State of Israel Bonds, Women's Division Installation, the Westin Hotel, 11 Colonel By Drive, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>National Arts Centre celebration of Israel at 50, National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin Street, continues until November 19.</p>	<p>Ganon Pre-School, Shabbat Shalom Drop-In, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 9:00-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Tiny Treasures Shabbat for Tots Drop-In-Centre, 192 Switzer Avenue, 9:30-11:30 a.m.</p> <p> <b>CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE 4:17 PM</b></p>		<p>Jewish Genealogy and Internet, Soloway Jewish Community Centre Library, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 8:00 p.m.</p>
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
	<p>Single Parent Lecture, Soloway Jewish Community Centre, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 7:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Jewish Family Services/ Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Adults for Lively Leisure, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 12:00 noon.</p> <p>Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Meeting, Home of Myrna and Norman Barwin, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Ganon Pre-School, Shabbat Shalom Drop-In, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 9:00-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Tiny Treasures Shabbat for Tots Drop-In-Centre, 192 Switzer Avenue, 9:30-11:30 a.m.</p> <p> <b>CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE 4:11 PM</b></p>	<p>Ner Tamid Festival of the Arts, Soloway Jewish Community Centre, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 6:00 p.m. - midnight.</p>	<p>Ner Tamid Festival of the Arts, Soloway Jewish Community Centre, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, all day.</p> <p>Cable 22, 3:00 pm </p>

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schafer, calendar co-ordinator at 798-9818 extension 265. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided.

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